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In today's Business Supplement

- ★ What's wrong with Swiss banking
- ★ Shoring up Pacific Rim trade
- ★ How to improve the civil service

Money

Crash survivor hospitalized on return home

RAINE MARCUS and BATSHEVA TSUR

"IT'S a shame it had to end like this," were the only words uttered by an exhausted Lior Fuchs, the sole Israeli survivor of Saturday's plane crash in the Comoro Islands, as he was taken on a stretcher from the El Al Boeing 767 which brought him home from Nairobi last night.

Fuchs, whose friend Ya'acov Brown was killed in the crash, was the first passenger to be lifted off the regular flight at Ben-Gurion Airport. He was kept on a stretcher during the journey, with a curtain around him for privacy, following his ordeal in which seven Israeli citizens perished.

Fuchs was met by his father Ori, IDF and Foreign Ministry personnel and swarms of journalists and photographers.

Magen David Adom doctors and paramedics took him directly to Sha'aba's Tel Hashomer Hospital for medical treatment and observation. His father did not speak to reporters.

According to El Al spokesman Nahman Klieman, a special El Al flight was due to take off for Nairobi late last night to bring back the seven bodies of the crash victims. The flight is due to arrive here early this afternoon. Following a special request by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the coffin of the Ukrainian diplomat killed in the crash is to be flown here with them.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the remaining four Israeli passengers on the plane were identified yesterday by members of the Israeli task force at the site.

(Continued on Page 2)

Apparently wrongly convicted murderer freed by court

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court ordered an apparently wrongly convicted murderer released from jail yesterday, after three other people confessed to the crime for which he was convicted.

Elazar Bengayev, now 22, was sentenced to life in prison last year for the murder of Shalom Cohen of Jerusalem, largely on the basis of his own confession. He has already spent almost three years in jail, as he was held throughout the investigation and trial. His appeal was supposed to have been heard next week.

However, the state submitted an urgent request for Cohen's immediate release this week, after the police obtained confessions for the same crime from three other people.

The police have collected a great deal of [new] evidence which throws a new light on the affair," the state wrote in its request to the court. "Three suspects are currently under arrest, who have confessed to participating in the robbery during the course of which the late Shalom Cohen was murdered on January 9, 1994, in his house on Etzhelem Road in Jerusalem."

Because of this new evidence, the state asked the court to immediately accept Bengayev's appeal.

(Continued on Page 3)

Official: PM-Arafat summit a must



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman overlook Ariel, where Netanyahu yesterday vowed to continue construction.

BATSHEVA TSUR and HERB KEINON

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is prepared to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat several times in order to finalize an agreement over Hebron, a senior government source said yesterday.

"Ultimately, a summit meeting is necessary, but nothing has yet been planned," he said. "The prime minister has said he would be willing to hold several meetings with Arafat if necessary, but there has to be progress made before they can meet."

Palestinian sources denied last night that there was a connection between a possible summit and the cancellation of a planned visit by the PA head to the Gulf states.

Arafat and senior Palestinian negotiators huddled in conference last night discussing their next move in the talks on Hebron.

The meeting, which began at about 2:30 p.m. in Bethlehem was still in session eight hours later, amid speculation that the participants were working on a way to reformulate the wording of the Hebron agreement concerning the issue of hot pursuit.

Among the participants were Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed-Rabbo, Saeh Erekat and Dr. Ahmed Tibi.

In Oslo, Foreign Minister David Levy said yesterday, at a joint press conference with his Norwegian counterpart, that a summit meeting



Hebron Redeployment

is necessary between Netanyahu and Arafat to resolve the last few outstanding issues holding up the Hebron agreement.

Talks between Israeli negotiators Danny Nevel, Dore Gold and Yitzhak Molocho and PA negotiators Abed-Rabbo and Erekat resumed yesterday. The prime minister's advisors reported back to him that the atmosphere was more relaxed, although no substantial progress was made.

Netanyahu vowed in Ariel and Eli yesterday that he will continue to develop settlements, sending a clear message to Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak - who have recently blasted his settlement policy - that he will stand firm.

"And why shouldn't the settlements here be developed?" Netanyahu asked reporters in Ariel. "Is anyone stopping the development of the Arab villages nearby? Am I preventing this? Am I checking them? I think that Palestinians and some Israelis better get used to the idea that we are going to live together."

(Continued on Page 4)

Ottawa ready to probe new list of Nazi war criminals in Canada

STEVE LEIBOWITZ and ROBERT SARNER

FOLLOWING reports by *The Jerusalem Post* and Channel 1's *IBA News*, Canada's Justice Minister Allan Rock says he wants to study the findings of a recent private investigation which uncovered the presence of 157 alleged Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

"I'd be surprised to learn that there were that many people that we've overlooked, given the efforts the government has taken over the last 10 or 15 years," Rock told reporters in Ottawa.

Rock was responding to the revelations that New York detective Steve Rambam had tracked down the Nazis over the past two years and had gathered incriminating evidence on many of them. During his investigation, Rambam met 60 of the suspects, posing as a professor from a non-existent university, and secretly recorded conversations with them about their

wartime activities.

"I haven't seen the information the investigators have amassed," said Rock, considered by many to be the first Canadian Justice Minister since the war to take the war criminal issue seriously. "If they wish to share it with us, that would be very helpful. We'd be happy to look at it."

Rock added that within the next few months, the government will launch deportation proceedings against four new suspects in addition to the eight it has moved against since early last year.

This week, Rambam spoke with the Canadian Jewish Congress with the aim of giving them the tapes and other evidence so the CJC can present them to the government's official Nazi hunters.

In addition to national television coverage in recent days, several Toronto and Montreal newspapers

(Continued on Page 9)

Girl from hepatitis-stricken village gets first live-donor liver transplant

JUDY SIEGEL

THE four-year-old girl who yesterday was the first person in Israel to receive a lobe from the liver of a living person, her mother, was one of 70 children in the poverty-stricken village south of Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael to contract hepatitis A since September.

The girl, Liel Jibran, from the Arab village of Jisr az-Zarka, and her mother Fawzia, who gave a part of the left side of her liver, are recovering well at the Rabin

Medical Center-Boilinson Campus and the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva.

The Health Ministry has begun immunizing all village children aged two to six with the active vaccine against hepatitis A.

The disease usually passes without harm, but in Liel's case - a one out of 1,000 chance - liver functioning broke down.

Earlier story, Page 3

Arafat meets settlers

STEVE RODAN

IN the first encounter between the two sides, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met last night with a delegation of 10 Jewish settlers, including some from the Hebron area, and pledged to examine joint ventures in tourism, education and industry.

Arafat and the settlers met for more than an hour at a Greek Orthodox church compound in Bethlehem, for a discussion that ranged from joint economic projects to security in Hebron. The meeting was not announced in advance, and journalists did not attend.

The settlers, with one exception, did not want to be named and stressed that they did not represent anybody. With them was Yehuda Wachsmann, whose son, Nachshon, was killed by Hamas terrorists in 1994.

(Continued on Page 2)

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تجدد في القدس

A-G: Border Police anti-Arab violence widespread

VIOLENCE against Arabs by the Border Police is the rule rather than the exception, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said in a letter to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday.

Ben-Yair based this conclusion on data from the ministry's division for investigating policemen, and a discussion this week with senior ministry, police and border police officials. "I was convinced that this is indeed a serious and widespread phenomenon," he wrote. "The cumulative experience of the investigators and attorneys shows that we are talking about a phenomenon, rather than exceptional cases."

Ben-Yair noted that 324 complaints were filed against border policemen for violence in 1995, and 264 so far this year. Of these, 21 resulted in criminal indictments last year and another 21 this year, 29 last year and 14 this year resulted in disciplinary charges, and the charges were found baseless in 44 cases last year and 25 this year.

However, the vast majority of cases were closed because of difficulties in collecting evidence. The victims are often not the ones who complain, due partly to the fact that many Arabs in the territories cannot enter Israel, and often either the victims cannot be found or the

EVELYN GORDON

policemen cannot be identified. "In the professionals' opinion, the change in proportion between disciplinary and criminal charges is an indication of a worsening in the level of violence," Ben-Yair added. "All this paints a sad and sorry picture of a deep-rooted tradition of violence towards Arabs among the border police, just because they are Arabs. There are also those who say this phenomenon exists, though to a lesser degree, in the other security services."

Ben-Yair said he agreed with the Border Police that part of the problem is the growing

number of people doing compulsory military service there.

Professionals, because of their greater age and experience and the fear of losing their jobs, are much less likely to resort to violence.

Steps must be taken to increase the number of professionals in the force, he said, but the police must also step up their educational efforts and enforce a rule requiring all border policemen to wear name tags in both Hebrew and Arabic.

The State Attorney's Office, for its part, will try to step up prosecutions, demand stiffer sentences, and ask for more remands, he added.

Border policemen who beat Palestinians placed under house arrest

Border policemen David Ben-Abu and Tzahi Shimaya, who were shown beating Palestinians on Channel 1 last week, were placed under house arrest by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court denied the Jerusalem District-Attorney's request that they be remanded until the end of

proceedings against them. However, the decision will not be acted on for 24 hours to give the state time to decide whether to appeal it.

The two were released on bail of NIS 15,000, the phone lines to their homes were cut off and they are not to meet with anyone, among other restrictions. *Lim*



Lior Fuchs, the only Israeli survivor of last Saturday's crash in the Comoro Islands, is carried off an El Al plane last night upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport. (Israel Sun/Don Oestendyver)

Senior SLA officer murdered in ambush near his home

DAVID RUDGE

A SENIOR member of the South Lebanese Army was killed in an ambush near his home in the Jezzine region late Monday night, as Hizbullah kept up its two-pronged offensive against Israel's ally.

Tony Nahara, 40, who was described as a member of the SLA's security apparatus, was murdered in what appears to have been a carefully-planned assassination.

According to reports from the region, his car was hit by light weapon fire close to his home in Siniya village, in the predominantly Christian-populated Jezzine region.

Nahara was killed, but his wife, who also was in the car, managed to escape unhurt.

Hizbullah issued a statement saying that special forces of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had carried out the "execution." The statement, reported on Lebanese radio stations, said the gunmen had opened fire with machine guns and automatic rifles when Nahara's car reached the ambush point.

The statement warned all "collaborators of the Zionist enemy" of the same fate. It urged them to

"repent" and desert the ranks of the SLA or face the consequences.

The assassination of the high-level official was seen as being part of Hizbullah's ongoing physical and psychological war against the SLA and those loyal to its commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, who controls the Jezzine enclave.

The SLA, which is reported to be composed of around 2,500 soldiers recruited from villages in the security zone, has been bearing the brunt of Hizbullah attacks in the past few months.

On Monday, an SLA soldier was lightly wounded by mortar fire at the force's Alman position in the zone's central sector. Later that day a roadside bomb exploded alongside a car in the Jezzine region, lightly wounding the civilian driver.

The SLA troops are more exposed to attacks because of their movements in the field and in the villages.

The assassination on Monday night showed once again that Hizbullah has a high level of intelligence about the activities and movements of both the SLA and the IDF and has the ability to utilize this.

Shahor: Israel has violated Oslo clauses

LIAT COLLINS

IDF Coordinator in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor admitted yesterday that Israel has violated some clauses of the Oslo Agreement, but said most of the violations stemmed from security



considerations.

In a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shahor presented a list of Israeli violations according to the Palestinians. He said most of them were a question of different interpretation of the agreement. Last week the committee discussed the Palestinian violations.

The most obvious — and undisputed — Israeli violations are the failure to carry out the redeployment in Hebron scheduled for last March, and the first of the three planned further redeployments in the territories that had been scheduled for September.

According to an official briefing, the list of 34 violations, later distributed to reporters, was based on a report presented by Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat in September.

Shahor rejected many of the claims on security grounds, including the Palestinian charge that they have not been given all the authority they were meant to in Area B places where Israel has overriding security responsibility. He similarly rejected the complaint about Israel not having allocated certain routes in Area B for the use of the Palestinian Police, and that the joint patrols have not been expanded in areas B and C.

He also dismissed the complaint that Israel has overstepped its bounds at Rachel's Tomb, saying this stemmed from security needs. He said some of the Palestinian complaints are unsubstantiated, including the charges that Israel has not granted the Palestinians air space or that Israel has imposed a blockade off the Gaza coast. Shahor said there is no blockade, although the area in which fishing boats are allowed has been reduced.

There is also a disagreement about the charges of Israeli violations at the as yet non-operational airport in Gaza. The Palestinians are demanding overall responsibility there, while Israel claims that it has the same status as other crossings, with ultimate Israeli responsibility.

He said the status of Jewish settlements would be determined by the two sides in the talks on the permanent arrangements.

The lack of safe passage routes between Gaza and the West Bank was cited by the Palestinians, although Shahor said this has to be agreed on by both sides.

He said Israeli violations on the whole are isolated incidents and not the result of deliberate policy. Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said this differed from the Palestinians, whose violations "are deep-rooted. They have no intention of carrying out the agreements."

Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert presented the committee with the Palestinian National Council recommendations on Jerusalem from a meeting in April in Gaza, published by the Palestinian Authority. These include such statements as: "Jerusalem is the capital of an independent Palestinian State. It is a red line which cannot be crossed. Israel must withdraw from the city. Israeli steps in the city must be monitored. The PLO and Palestinian Authority must provide encouragement and support to institutions and residents in Jerusalem."

According to Olmert, the Palestinians plan to call on the US not to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Other measures planned include conferences and symposia emphasizing the Arab nature of the city, and a census and survey to locate Palestinians from Jerusalem and take steps to help them return.

IAI crash victims were returning from negotiations on Mig upgrade with Ukrainians

STEVE RODAN

THE four IAI executives in the Ethiopian Airlines crash were returning from Addis Ababa, where they had held negotiations for the upgrade of up to 30 Soviet-made Mig 21 jets in the Ethiopian Air Force. The executives were joined by a four-member delegation from Ukraine.

The IAI-Ukraine effort was the first by Israel and Ukraine in a joint project to upgrade Mig jets. Industry sources said the cooperation was based on Israel's technical skills in upgrading Mig's and Ukraine's large supply of spare parts for the Mig 21.

"This was negotiations only," a source said. "The two sides were not ready for signing."

Israeli sources said the joint del-

egation presented its plan to upgrade the Mig 21 and on Saturday took Ethiopian Airlines flight 661 to Nairobi, where it was hijacked. The sources said the hijacking had nothing to do with the Mig deal.

IAI executives said the Mig deal with the Ethiopians would have to be reassessed in the wake of the hijacking and airplane crash. The executives on board were familiar with all the details of the negotiations and their replacements would have to learn of what had been achieved so far.

A key factor in the talks, industry sources said, is the ability of the Ethiopian government to raise funds from international sources

to pay for the upgrade.

In contrast to the Israeli delegation, three of the four members of the Ukrainian delegation on the Ethiopian Airlines flight survived.

The survivors included the deputy head of the Ukraine Air Force, Victor Strelchikov. He had intended to fly to Israel to meet up with the delegation headed by Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma, who yesterday ended a three-day visit.

Kuchma visited IAI yesterday after a meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. During his visit, the Kuchma proposed joint ventures in the fields of aviation and space.

Basheva Tsur contributed to this report.

Azzam's family worried, but hopeful he'll be released

DAVID RUDGE

THE family of Azzam Azzam, the Israeli Druse being held in an Egyptian jail for spying, said yesterday that he was in good spirits and was being well treated.

His brother Sami, who visited Azzam in the Tura jail on Monday after receiving permission from the Egyptian authorities, said he was in good physical condition.

"We waited in a room and he was brought there to us. He smiled and hugged us and asked about everybody and we said everybody was okay [and] we're fully supporting him," Sami Azzam said yesterday after returning to their home village Maghar, in the Galilee.

"We tried not to show him any emotion because he really felt good and smiled and said things were well and we wanted to strengthen

him," Sami Azzam said. He said they had asked the Israeli consul to arrange more visits because "it helps keep us calm, and him."

Azzam, since his arrest outside a Cairo hotel over three weeks ago, has consistently denied charges that he was an Israeli agent.

"He has continued to proclaim his innocence throughout and everybody knows that he is innocent," said Wahaf Azzam, another brother. "All the family is worried, but we know he is innocent and because of that we are hopeful that he will return."

Meanwhile, the Maghar Local Council is staying in close contact with the family and a counselor

has been helping Azzam's wife and their children to remain calm and cope with the situation.

Lim adds: Egyptian security officials have decided to carefully monitor Egyptians traveling to Israel as a result of the Azzam case. A high-ranking Egyptian source said any Egyptian traveling to Israel who is not part of an official delegation will have a police file opened against him.

The same source said that Azzam was not the only Israeli involved in the case and the identity of the others would be released once they are arrested. The source expressed shock over Israeli reactions to Azzam's arrest, saying he has admitted being a spy to Israeli officials who were allowed to visit him.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two soldiers hurt near Hebron

Two soldiers were lightly injured last night from two petrol bombs thrown at their patrol vehicle as it drove through the village of Tufah near Hebron. The army said the two soldiers were evacuated for medical treatment. IDF troops launched searches for the perpetrators, the army said.

The plan of the attack is in the sections slated to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority once a Hebron redeployment agreement is reached.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Probe of alleged hotel bribery

An investigation is under way in France regarding alleged bribery connected to a hotel owned by Yoel Herzog and his partner and father-in-law, Nissim Gaon, Israel Radio reported last night.

In a phone conversation with the station last night, Gaon denied that an order had been issued for his and Herzog's arrest. He said a judge agreed to wait until company officials check into the actions of a casino manager at their hotel in Cannes.

Gaon said the casino manager had full authority to run the business, including maintaining contacts with the local authorities. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Israeli, US coordinate vs. terrorism

Israeli and American experts will meet periodically throughout the year to map a bilateral strategy for combating terrorism, an Israeli official said in Washington yesterday.

The sub-groups that are to meet include those focusing on fighting terrorism through diplomatic, judicial, intelligence, military and law enforcement means, he said.

The plan was an outcome of two days of meetings at the State Department of US and Israeli officials. The session was mandated by the counter-terrorism accord signed here seven months ago following the terrorist bombings of Israeli buses. *Hillel Kuttler*

Ukrainian president visits Arafat

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma yesterday visited Bethlehem, where he was treated to an honor guard by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Kuchma said at a joint news conference that "we wish the Palestinians success in building their state," while Arafat noted that he met Kuchma in Bethlehem and not Gaza, his headquarters, because "Gaza is surrounded by tanks."

Kuchma also visited the Church of the Nativity. *Jon Immanuel*

CRASH

There were eight Israelis on the plane. Earlier, Shraga Ben-Nissan, managing director of Lahav, Amram Ben-David, IAI's African division head, and Brown, were found dead near the airplane wreckage.

El Al last night sent a special flight to Nairobi to bring back the bodies.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Harry Allen will speak on "The Israel Endowment Fund."

SETTLERS

(Continued from Page 1)

The participants, who came from the area of Hebron and Gush Etzion reiterated that they would remain in the territories, and hoped that they could live in peace with their Palestinian neighbors.

The meeting appeared free of rancor and some leading aides of Arafat expressed surprise over the friendly tone of the meeting.

Several of the settlers urged Arafat to open Hebron to Jews, and said maintaining the city as an armed camp, with thousands of IDF soldiers and Palestinian police, would result in an explosion. Arafat agreed, saying he would study the proposals presented by some of the participants for expansion of Jewish businesses in

the Hebron area to help alleviate Arab unemployment. He also said he would support projects to promote dialogue and reconciliation between Arabs and Jews.

One of the participants, David Bedein of Efrat, urged the PA chief to relay the same message in Arabic to his constituents.

"I say it," Arafat responded, recalling his successful effort to win Palestinian National Council approval to amend the covenant.

The PA chief assured the Israeli visitors that the PLO has removed all of the clauses of the Palestinian covenant that violates the accords with Israel or denies its right to exist. He said he has not decided whether to present a new covenant to the PNC.

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
mourns the loss of its Founder and long-time friend
HILLEL PICCIOTTO
and extends sincerest sympathy to his wife and family

Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research
mourns the death of
KEREN DISKIN כרן
and expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family

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MONTY NEWMAN מנחם
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Tichon delays elections for Knesset reps on religious panel

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon decided yesterday to postpone to next week the election of two representatives from the Knesset to sit on the committee which appoints religious court judges. Tichon was answering a request by Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan.

MKs from different factions in the coalition popped in and out of each other's offices yesterday trying to reach an agreement on who to propose as the coalition's candidates to the committee.

In the morning, two additional coalition MKs joined the competition for the two spots. Maxim Levy (Geshet-Likud) and Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) joined Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). Avraham Stern (National Religious Party) and Nissim Dahan (Shas) as potential coalition candidates. MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) has also put himself forward for a place on the

committee.

Levy and Lubotsky have complicated the choice, which was already difficult, because Shas and the NRP have failed to reach a rotation agreement between them to counter the UTJ's candidate.

The coalition has agreed that one of the two representatives must be from UTJ, but Eitan fears that the growing number of candidates could split the vote, and ultimately Gafni would fail to get the post.

Eitan convened a meeting of Knesset coalition faction heads yesterday and warned them of a possible coalition crisis should Gafni not be elected, as written down in the coalition agreement. He said the Likud is obliged only to the UTJ, and is not concerned about who the second candidate is. He called on them to reach an agreement among themselves.

"I won't let the coalition break up because of your fighting," Eitan reportedly said.

Lukashenko lures lawmakers to new rival parliament

ANGELA CHARLTON
MINSK, Belarus

BELARUS'S hard-line president moved swiftly yesterday to strip authority from his rivals after winning broadened powers from voters, convening a new parliament that declared the existing one moot.

President Alexander Lukashenko, who now has vast control over all branches of government, immediately prevailed upon the new body to pass legislation withdrawing impeachment efforts against him.

Coming just a day after Lukashenko claimed an overwhelming victory in a disputed referendum, the developments confirmed his intention to tighten his iron grip on the former Soviet republic.

Driving a wedge through the parliamentary opposition, Lukashenko successfully lured many deputies away from opposition leaders who have waged a months-long power struggle against him.

More than 100 deputies in a new, pro-Lukashenko body met with the president and declared themselves the actual, working parliament. They promptly passed a law making the results of Sunday's referendum binding, although the new body's legal status remained murky.

"Today is a historic moment," Lukashenko told them. "By passing this law, we are essentially emerging from the con-

stitutional crisis."

When he left the hall, he declared: "The crisis is over. I don't think we can doubt the legality of today's events," Lukashenko said. "We won. The people have won."

About 70 Lukashenko opponents who serve in the 199-member elected parliament met for three hours across town in the parliament building. But, lacking a quorum, they failed to take action or come up with any concrete proposals on what their next move should be.

"Those people... are just a group of deputies sitting around talking," said Ivan Pashkevich, one of the lawmakers who defected to the pro-Lukashenko body.

Sunday's vote, which opponents and international monitors say was unfair, changes the constitution to extend Lukashenko's term by two years, until 2001, and give him nearly unlimited powers.

The opposition had said it would press ahead with impeachment efforts in the Constitutional Court. But with

the new body voting later yesterday to withdraw the impeachment bid, that attempt appeared effectively over. "We have made mistakes and now we must recognize that we have lost," said Mikhail Voronovich, an Agrarian member of the holdout parliament. "I suggest that we either disband ourselves or join those who are now forming new power bodies." Tamara Manukova, a Communist, said: "We all need courage now."

The anti-Lukashenko deputies claim vote fraud and said they would not recognize the referendum results. In Washington, the US State Department also criticized the referendum as illegitimate and urged Lukashenko to declare the results non-binding.

Many lawmakers in Belarus had united in recent months in opposing Lukashenko, an aggressive president who has tried to concentrate more power in his own hands. Lukashenko is popular among many Belarusians because of his emphasis on law and order and on restoring ties with Russia that were severed after the 1991 Soviet collapse.

Lukashenko's proposals won 70.5 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, with 84% of the eligible voters casting ballots, according to the election commission.

Yeltsin, recovering, focuses on Chechnya, Belarus

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin, facing a crisis in Belarus and uncertainty over economic policy as he recovers from heart surgery, met top ministers yesterday to discuss another pressing issue - break-away Chechnya.

His press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, speaking at a Kremlin briefing, declined to comment on a fierce attack by the communist-led opposition over Yeltsin's decision to withdraw all Russian forces from Chechnya.

But he said Yeltsin had discussed the issue with Defense Minister Igor Rodionov and Interior Minister Anatoly Kudrikov when he met them at the Barvikha residence outside Moscow.

Yeltsin moved to Barvikha last week after multiple bypass surgery on November 5, and the 65-year-old leader is becoming more active in handling Russia's mounting problems.

One is the furor raised by the communist-dominated opposition in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, over a deal signed on Saturday by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the head of the rebel Chechen government, Aslan Maskhadov.

The deal was signed after Yeltsin ordered withdrawal of all Russian troops from Chechnya, including both Defense Ministry forces and Interior Ministry ones.

The opposition insists that both Yeltsin's order and the Chernomyrdin-Maskhadov deal are unconstitutional and will lead to Chechnya's secession from the Russian Federation. The Duma is due to hold an extraordinary session on Friday to discuss the issue.

In Chechnya, up to 5,000 people gathered in the capital Grozny to mark the second anniversary of a failed attempt by the Moscow-backed opposition to storm the city.



Bosnian policemen try to stop refugee women from Srebrenica from attacking cars yesterday in Sarajevo's main street. The crowd blocked traffic at one of the city's main junctions. Thousands of people protested what they said was the international community's failure to honor promises made in the Dayton peace accord, which ended 43 months of war.

Clarke woos British voters with new budget tax cuts

LONDON (Reuters) - Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke unveiled a pre-election budget yesterday carefully crafted to woo Britain's wavering voters with a one-point cut in basic income tax and extra spending on schools, hospitals and the police.

But Clarke raised a number of indirect taxes and scrapped a number of tax breaks, resulting in a relatively tight overall budget meant to head off a damaging rise in interest rates.

"This budget secures a prosperous future for all sections of our people and their families. It is a budget not just for today but for tomorrow. This is a sensible budget for growing prosperity," he said.

Clarke described the budget as "responsible," and said it would pave the way for the ruling Conservatives to come from behind in the opinion polls and win a fifth consecutive term in office at an election, due by May 22.

"I am a man of the world. I realize my virtue doesn't always bring its own rewards. But this virtuous budget will bring rich rewards. The rewards of economic success to the hard working men and women of this country," he said.

Clarke cut overall taxes by £2 billion (\$3.34 billion), but offset it by reducing public spending by the same amount.

"Consumer spending is strong and inflation remains in check. But a fiscal stimulus to the economy at this stage could be just as damaging as letting go of monetary policy. So, in setting my budget, I have struck a careful balance," he said.

The centerpiece of the budget, which was overshadowed by an unprecedented leak of the budget to the *Daily Mirror* on Monday night, was a widely trailed cut in the basic rate of income tax from 24 percent to 23 percent - a 60-year low.

In a naked pitch to the voters, Clarke said his tax plans - which included increases in tax thresholds - would make the average family £370 better off next year, after inflation.

As Clarke spoke, a high-level investigation was under way into the leak of a sheaf of documents to the *Daily Mirror* with details of key parts of the budget.

The leak, the worst in half a century, acutely embarrassed Prime Minister John Major's government, which is struggling to shake off the perception that it is losing its once-sure touch after 17-1/2 years in power.

WJC to discuss restitution with Sweden

OSLO (Reuters) - The World Jewish Congress said yesterday it would take its search for the unclaimed wealth of Holocaust victims to Sweden, which it said bought gold from Nazi Germany during World War II.

WJC Secretary-General Israel Singer said he would travel to Stockholm today for "an opening discussion" with Swedish government officials on questions of restitution of Jewish property.

He was speaking to reporters on the final day of a two-day WJC meeting in Oslo at which plans were made to penetrate Swiss bank secrecy and find out what happened to the wealth of Jewish victims of Nazi terror in other European countries, including neutral Sweden.

In Stockholm, a Foreign Ministry official said Singer would meet briefly with Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen today.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Pensioners slam Meridor

After marking special events for children's rights and against the abuse of women, the Knesset yesterday focused on pensioners. In a series of meetings with MKs organized by the Pensioners Union, much of the talks centered on the expected budget cuts. Union chairman Gideon Ben-Israel criticized Finance Minister Dan Meridor calling him "the enemy of the old people" and said pensioners would refuse to fill in declaration of income forms. *Liat Collins*

Knesset Culture Caucus convenes

Fifteen MKs, representing all but the haredi parties, have joined the Knesset's Culture Caucus which held its inaugural meeting yesterday. The lobby is chaired by MK Yona Yahav (Labor). He said the caucus intends to deal with issues such as establishing an independent culture authority, increasing the budget for cultural projects, encouraging cultural projects in peripheral areas, and encouraging original local productions. Yahav said the 1997 planned budget entails an NIS 22 million cut for cultural programs. *Liat Collins*

Arrested Haredim: We don't recognize state

Six haredim arrested Monday at the Castra excavations on the southern outskirts of Haifa told the Haifa Magistrate's Court they do not recognize the authority of the state, only the Torah. Judge Hinoch Shilon ordered five of the suspects released on NIS 3,000 bail, and ordered them not to come within 50 meters of the dig site. One of the six had his remand extended. They were accused of interfering with the dig, pushing the archeologists and causing a riot. Antiquities Authority officials said Monday that bones removed at the site are those of Christians buried in the ancient city of Castra. *Tim*

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SUMMIT

(Continued from Page 1)

Regarding reports that Arafat was planning to initiate violence similar to what occurred in September, after the opening of the new exit to the Western Wall Tunnel, Netanyahu said: "Arafat, or someone else in the Palestinian Authority, should think and weigh very well whether they want to go the way of peace, or return to the cycle of violence."

Netanyahu said the PA is mistaken if it believes the government will allow a "series of events like those that followed the opening of the tunnel exit, or will agree to engage in negotiations against the background of violence, or while under threat."

As to whether the government will build new settlements, Netanyahu said: "If and when I decide on building new settlements, I will bring the issue to the cabinet for debate and a decision." Netanyahu said that at this time, the government's policy is to allow building only in existing settlements.

While in Ariel, Netanyahu met with local councilors and visited the College of Judea and Samaria. Zabava Adar, the Ariel spokeswoman, said Netanyahu told the council that he intends to strengthen the settlement, which is today the second largest in the territories, with some 15,000 residents.

She said the prime minister will restore Ariel's preferential tax status, which it and most of the other settlements enjoyed before Labor came to power in 1992 and took this status away. She added that the government has approved plans to build 3,600 housing units in the settlement, 1,000 of which she said could be built "immediately."

Adar said that Netanyahu made it clear that under any final agreement with the Palestinians, Ariel

will remain a part of Israel, giving Ariel's leaders a feeling that the settlement's future is secure, for the first time in four years.

"We will be here forever," Netanyahu said.

Following his visit to Ariel, Netanyahu went to speak at the pre-military academy at Eli, where yeshiva high-school students study for a year before beginning their army duty.

Netanyahu said that he will try to begin talks on the final agreement within the year, and also that more effort should be made to deepen the link between the people and the land.

In a related development, President Ezer Weizman met with leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday and, according to the settlement leaders, asked them to start "thinking about and offering their opinion on how the final status map with the Palestinians should look." Yehiel Leiter, a spokesman for the council, said the very request was encouraging, because it shows that the idea of uprooting the settlements is increasingly being taken off the agenda.

Evelyn Gordon adds: MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday to prevent the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee from meeting Arafat this Sunday. Hendel said it was inconceivable for an official Knesset delegation to meet with Arafat at a time when Arafat was organizing violence against Israelis - ranging from the three-day shooting war in late September to this week's one-day blockade of Netzarim, in Gaza, by the Palestinian Police.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.



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Palestinian refugee issue set to resurface

OUT of the limelight of the dispute on the Hebron redeployment, a high-ranking Palestinian delegation led by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the foreign affairs department of the PLO, visited Damascus and Beirut to have meetings with Rejection Front leaders, in a declared attempt to reunite the PLO after a split caused by the Oslo agreements. Besides Kaddoumi, the delegation consisted of Faisal Hussein, his younger brother Ghazi Hussein, Mohammed Jihad, and Hani al-Hasan of the Fatah movement.

They met, among other key figures in the Palestinian opposition to Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat, Ahmad Jibril, George Hahash, and Nayef Hawatmah.

What caused Arafat to send a delegation to hold such meetings? Perhaps it is

connected to a report that informed them of a decision made recently, by Arafat, to revive the PLO infrastructure outside "Palestine."

Is Arafat paving the way to restore the weight of the Palestinian political system from the "inside" back to the "outside?"

If this is the case, Arafat will not necessarily move the PLO headquarters back to the Arab world, however the center of its activity will return to outside the Palestinian Authority areas.

At first glance, this possibility makes no sense. How can the PLO abandon "Palestine" after accomplishing the historical achievement of returning from the diaspora? This is a real question, one that leads to a confirmation that the PLO is here to stay, whatever happens. Yet the process of shifting the center

of gravity of Palestinian political activity to the "outside" is now taking on new dimensions due to the positions it adheres to regarding the refugee problem. And the current PLO position is that the only solution is fulfillment of the "right of return" — despite the fact that Abo Mazen and Yossi Beilin agreed on a different formula which they refuse to elaborate.

Although we do not know the precise Abu Mazen-Beilin formula, we can assume that it differs from the PLO's formal position in the sense that the PLO's formula better represents the interests of the Palestinians abroad,

while Abu Mazen-Beilin's better represents the interests of Palestinians in the territories, who are not interested in flooding the territories with returning refugees. Those Palestinians, like Hanan Ashrawi, are speaking of a controlled return of refugees, according to the Palestinian absorption capabilities.

The delegation to Damascus and Beirut reflects this imbalance of interests (only Faisal Hussein represented the "inside").

The combination of meetings with opposition leaders in Damascus, and probable meetings with refugee activists in Beirut, reflect the linkage

between shifting the weight of Palestinian activity to the "outside," and the refugee problem.

The fact that Kaddoumi led the delegation shed more light on the process that is now taking place, and it may clarify some of the ambiguity connected to Arafat's inclination to declare a Palestinian state.

Kaddoumi is famous for his refusal to join the PLO in the territories, and he has gained additional prestige since the Likud's success in the elections. Upon his insistence, Fatah's Central Committee's last meeting, three months ago, convened in Cairo, not in Gaza, and Kaddoumi appeared as the most conspicuous figure. "I told you not to accept the Oslo agreements," Kaddoumi told his depressed colleagues.

Nobody even tried to argue with him. If Kaddoumi's line is going to develop, his foreign-affairs department will regain importance lost after many years of being pushed aside in favor of the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, Washington, and then to the Oslo team led by Abu Mazen and Abu Ala.

In many senses, Kaddoumi's foreign affairs department is recognized by many countries as the Foreign Ministry of the Palestinian State — already declared in Algeria.

What we may soon witness is a dual system: a Palestinian state operating from the diaspora, and a Palestinian Authority operating from "Palestine." Arafat will be the *rais* in the form of president while going abroad, and he will be *rais* with the meaning of chairman on his return to Gaza.

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

Jordan urges UN to reconsider Libya sanctions

MARJORIE OLSTER

JORDAN urged a reconsideration in Madrid on Monday of international sanctions imposed on Libya in connection with airliner bombings, saying such measures hurt ordinary people instead of their leaders.

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti, on a visit to Spain, said the sanctions imposed by the United Nations in 1992 in connection with the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, have not solved anything.

Libya was targeted for its refusal to extradite two men accused of planting a bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103 which exploded over Lockerbie and killed 270 people.

"Libya is now under some sort of a sanction... We would like very much to [re]visit this idea of sanctions," Kabarti said at a joint news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in Madrid. "It is very much now needed for the international community to revise and consider the idea of sanctions, and see whether they really change the situation in the way that [they are] intended," he added.

The punitive measures against Libya include an air embargo, a ban on arms sales, and the downgrading of diplomatic relations. They are reviewed by the UN Security Council every 120 days.

They also penalize Libya for not cooperating in an investigation into the 1989 bombing of France's UTA Flight 772 over Niger which killed all 171 aboard.

Because of Tripoli's continued noncompliance, the UN Security Council imposed additional sanctions in 1993, including a freeze on some of Libya's assets abroad, and a ban on its import of certain types of equipment used in oil transport terminals and refineries.

"I believe that sanctions don't affect dictators and don't affect the regimes," said Kabarti. "In fact what they do is just add to the misery of the people and they don't solve any problems."

The Arab League, of which Jordan is a member, supports Libya in its offer for the two Lockerbie suspects to be tried by a Scottish judge under Scottish law at the World Court at The Hague. The US and Britain, which have indicted the two men, insist they stand trial in a Scottish or US court.

El Mundo quoted the secret NATO report on Monday which singles out Russia, Libya, Syria, Iran and Iraq as potential foes of the US-led NATO alliance, but sees North Africa as the top source of threats to its territory. It said Libya could pose a significant threat in 10 years' time if Tripoli successfully develops long-range missiles and warheads which could put Spain within its range.

Kabarti said he does not think Libya has nuclear weapons. "I doubt very much that Libya really had the time to develop such capabilities," he said.



Iraqi men have a communal newspaper-reading session on a street in Baghdad, catching updates on the UN-monitored oil-for-food deal that would permit Baghdad to sell oil on international markets for the first time in six years. (Reuters)

Iraqis dance in streets, dinar strengthens on oil-for-food news

IRAQIS cheered and danced in the alleyways of Baghdad's poor neighborhoods as word spread that the government had agreed to go ahead with the UN-monitored oil-for-food deal.

The Iraqi dinar strengthened against the dollar, and money changers disappeared from the market yesterday, to wait and see where the exchange rate would settle.

"I do not believe it!" said Samir Mohammed Shaker, 44, a former government worker. "This is the happiest day of my life."

Iraq on Monday accepted the remaining UN conditions blocking implementation of the deal, and US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said she expected the oil sale to go forward.

Iraq had given its approval last May to the UN deal, which will allow Baghdad to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy much-needed food and medicine for its 18 million people. But implementation had been

blocked because Iraq insisted on restricting the number of observers to monitor the program.

And the US announced in September that the plan was on hold because of an Iraqi military incursion into protected Kurdish areas in the north.

Iraq's economy has been deteriorating since the UN imposed sanctions after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait in August 1990.

The UN ban on oil sales — Iraq's main commodity — deprived the economy of more than \$20 billion a year in revenue.

Depreciation of the dinar and rising prices have put even necessities out of reach for poor Iraqis. UNICEF estimated in October that as many as 4,500 children under five were dying each month from hunger and disease.

The Iraqi government has not shied from highlighting the hardship the sanctions, aimed at dislodging the leadership, have

caused ordinary people, while telling them their suffering is patriotic.

"The flow of oil means the flow of life back to Iraq," the government's *Al-Jumhuriya* newspaper said in an editorial yesterday.

The newspaper cast the Iraqi decision to drop objections to the deal as a timely move to stop "the malicious plots against Iraqis to keep them from food" and to end "the series of excuses used by the United States to block any deal."

As word of the deal circulated Monday night, people celebrated in the densely populated working-class districts of Al-Rahmaniya and Al-Thawra.

Yesterday morning, money changers on downtown Kifah Street were refusing to sell dollars until the exchange rate settled.

The dinar had slipped to a record low of 3,000 to the dollar in December and January. Before Monday's announcement, it was trading at about 1,400 to the dollar. Yesterday's opening rate was 1,100, but oo

one on Kifah Street was willing to sell.

Retail prices were expected to fall, but some skeptical shopkeepers kept to their old prices. "I do not think that America will let the oil flow," said Ahmed Nouri Mahmoud, a 52-year-old store owner. "History tells us that they never let good things happen to President Saddam, so I expect them to bring something up to stop the deal."

Iraqi newspapers spread the news in banner headlines. The daily *Babil*, which is owned by Saddam's son Qadai and has been one of Iraq's harshest critics of Albright, published her statement at the United Nations in full on page 2.

One government worker, Mohammed Fatma, an employee at the Ministry of Information and Culture, termed the deal a victory for Iraq over the US. "President Saddam pulled the carpet from under Albright's feet," he said. "We always knew that President Saddam is the only one who cares for Iraqis while the rest only talk." (AP)

Saudi Arabia beheads 5 for drug smuggling

SAUDI Arabia yesterday beheaded five foreigners — two women and three men — for drug smuggling, Saudi state television reported.

An Interior Ministry statement carried by the television said four Pakistanis — two women and two men — and a Nigerian man were executed.

The beheadings raised to 58 the number of people executed in the conservative Muslim kingdom so far this year.

Saudi Arabia strictly enforces Islamic sharia law by publicly beheading by the sword convicted murderers, drug smugglers, rapists and other criminals. (Reuters)

Pressure on Syria to expand its economy

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

SAEED Nahas, a Syrian tycoon, has spent years trying in vain to arrange financing for a \$90 million tourism project on the Mediterranean coast. Camille Azzouz of Aleppo gave up a huge order from South America for his laminated-paneling factory because foreign banks are not allowed to supply letters of credit in Syria, and it would have taken too long to complete the deal in cash.

These and other tales from the *shuk* and the street, suggest that pressure is mounting on Syria to expand its economy, particularly its nearly nonexistent private banking system. *The Wall Street Journal* reported last week.

Damascus is moving very cautiously in its economic reforms for fear of unleashing crime and political unrest if it moves too quickly.

That means, for example, that businesses have been waiting two years for a stock-market law, while the government waits for shareholder-owned companies to emerge first.

"It's like the chicken and the egg," Nahas said.

The government's fears about private banking also stem, in part, from a scandal in Aleppo, two years ago, when an illicit "money collector" took off with millions of dollars after promising investors high returns for cash deposits.

"We're worried about having those people come and ask for licenses to open private banks," Mohammed Al Imadi, minister of

economy and foreign trade, told the newspaper. "We want to keep banks in the hands of the government."

Private enterprise is also stymied by an intricate system of currency controls, some of which are contradictory. Citizens can maintain interest-bearing dollar accounts in Syrian banks, but a decade-old law makes it illegal for Syrians to handle foreign exchange, the *Journal* reported.

Syrian businesses can't get financing for projects of \$30 million or more. For smaller deals, funds are available, but they cost dearly. Hashem Akkad, a Damascus trader, industrialist and member of Parliament, told the *Journal*.

A loan document from Industrial Bank, for example, lists a standard borrowing rate of 10% that rises to 18.5%, including an "engagement commission," "execution fee" and three other charges, the newspaper reported.

There are signs that Syria is moving forward, however slowly. It has an agreement with France to restructure more than \$300 million of debt, which could attract European capital. And the Syrian Union has started a \$6 million project to provide computer hardware to Syria's banks, which could possibly prepare them for competition with private banks.

In the meantime though, Syrian businesses can deal with Lebanese banks or the black-market exchanges at border crossings and in the *shuk*.

Bonn asks Beirut to extradite smuggler

GERMANY formally asked Beirut on Monday to extradite a Lebanese-born businessman wanted for smuggling chemical weapons-making equipment from Germany to Libya, judicial sources said.

They said the Germans asked Lebanon to hand over Berge Balanian, who is wanted on an international arrest warrant. He was arrested at a Beirut airport cafe last month by German and Lebanese police.

Lebanon's prosecutor-general Adnan Addoum, who received the German request, said he would decide on it within 48 hours, but that any extradition decision would also need the approval of the cabinet.

The German federal crime office in Wiesbaden has said Balanian was wanted for exporting state-of-the-art equipment to Libya for mixing poison gases. German police say equipment to mix poison gases worth some DM 3.2 million (\$2.15 million) was illegally sent to Libya from Germany in 1990-93, contrary to German arms-control laws.

Prosecutors believe the equipment was bought by the businessman's firms then sent to the Libyan port of Tripoli, via Belgian companies that Balanian owns.

US officials accused Libya earlier this year of trying to build an underground chemical-weapon plant. (Reuters)

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A generational challenge

A good number of Israeli youths, according to a 1994 survey of Israeli youth sponsored by the Education Ministry, hate Arabs but do not want to fight them. The survey, conducted by the Carmel Institute for Social Research and enjoying renewed attention following an article analyzing its findings in the journal *Meimad*, revealed a number of trends that deserve the attention of policy makers.

The survey results contradict the caricature of Israeli youth as a "Ramat Aviv Gimel Generation" obsessed with aping their American and European counterparts. Despite the relentless bemoaning of reduced motivation to serve in the military, a full 86% of the Jewish students said they "want" or "want very much" to join the IDF—virtually the same proportion as six years before.

The high-school students surveyed placed their highest values on traditional concerns such as professional satisfaction, raising a family, and academic success rather than other goals, such as "enjoying life," traveling abroad, or success in the military. Far from the nihilistic "Me Generation" often depicted, this snapshot of Israeli youth revealed a generation directed toward building their lives for the long term, without shirking their responsibility to serve their country along the way.

The survey found that Jewish Israeli youth were not sharply divided along urban or kibbutz lines, or between Ashkenazi and Sephardi ethnic backgrounds. One fault line, however, was clear: between secular and religious youth.

On the question of readiness to serve in combat units, the differences were marked and growing. Since a similar survey in 1988, students in national religious schools slightly increased their desire to serve in combat units, while the same desire dropped significantly in secular schools.

In particular, in non-technical secular schools, those inclined toward combat units plummeted from 72 percent in 1988 to 48 percent in 1994, and in secular kibbutz schools from 73 percent to 59 percent. At the same time, students in religious kibbutz schools now take the cake in terms of military motivation: 89 percent want to serve in combat units.

The religious schools should not, however, leap to pat themselves on the back. The survey also found that on average over one-third of Jewish Israeli youth hated Arabs and two-thirds were against giving Israeli Arabs full and equal rights. The survey showed that these anti-Arab attitudes were strongest among the students in religious schools, though hatred of Arabs in those schools has dropped somewhat since 1988.

So what do we know about a generation of

youth whose experience with the Arab-Israeli conflict consists of the intifada, the Gulf War and the handshake on the White House lawn? Today's youth has grown up with a much more complicated conflict than their parents knew when Israel defended her existence against the armies of the Arab world. Today even the dividing lines between war and peace, enemy and friend have become blurred.

It is perhaps inevitable that youth in these times turn more towards building a family than toward defending a bunker, a settlement, or a border. Still, at the current delicate juncture between a cold war and a bopped-for warm peace, Israel cannot afford to let disturbing trends go unaddressed.

Whatever happens in the peace process, Israel will have to combine a vigilant eye with an open hand. The trends highlighted by the survey indicate that the seeds of both vigilance and openness demand proper tending. The key to the future may lie in building upon the best attributes of secular and religious youth: the openness of the former, and the national motivation, even at a personal price, of the latter.

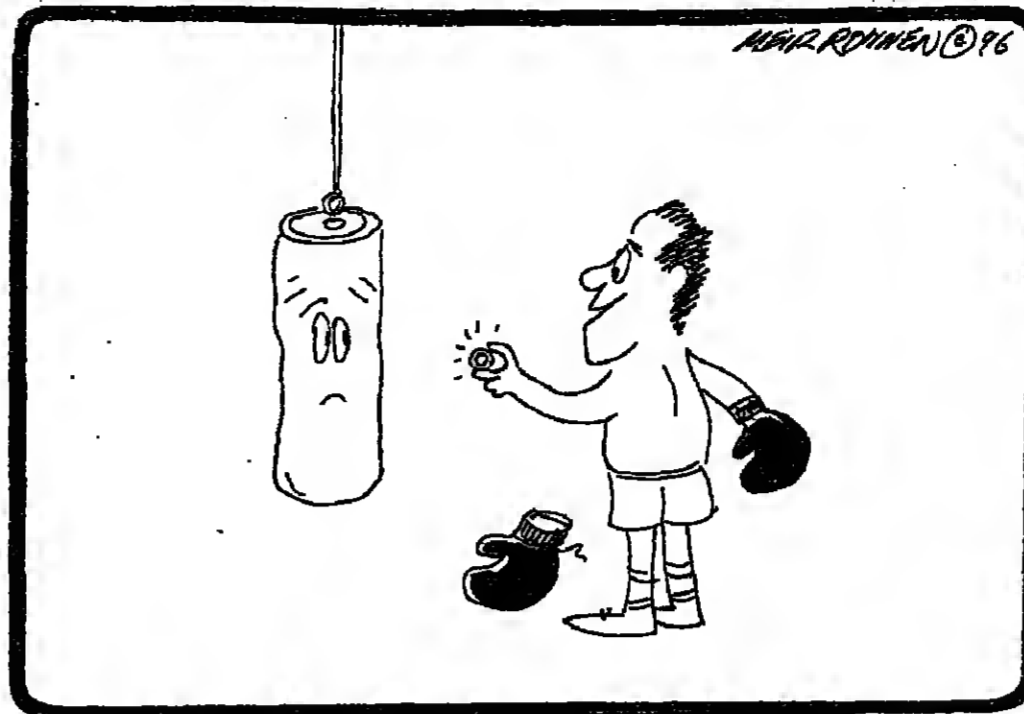
Another pointer toward the way ahead can be gleaned from the responses of Arab youth in the same survey. A full three-quarters of Israeli Arab youth were in favor of some form of voluntary national service, and a solid majority indicated that they would participate. At the same time, Arab and Jewish youth both supported peace, while doubting each other's commitment to this ideal.

Familiarity might breed contempt, but the lack of personal contact between Arab and Israeli youth certainly has not brought friendship. For Jewish youth, military service generally goes far in breaking down barriers between religious and secular, and sewing up other cultural divides. National service for Arab youth could help play a similar role, even if it is concentrated mostly in Arab communities.

It is hard to see what would be the possible downside of creating a national service program for Israeli Arabs, given the support for such a program before it has even been designed or promoted. Such a program would strengthen the connection of Israeli Arabs to Israel, improve conditions in Arab villages, and help break down animosity between Arabs and Jews.

The writing on the wall from the surveys is clear. Both religious and secular school students need to learn more about democracy, Jewish values, Jewish history, and the Arab neighbors with whom we live. It is a tall order to build toughness, patriotism and openness to former enemies all at the same time, but that is the challenge facing Israeli educators.

"With this ring I thee wed..."



Hands off our courts

MOSHE ZAK

LAST Thursday, the day after Britain's foreign minister met with our defense minister, Michael Beynon, diplomatic correspondent of the *London Times*, reported:

"Mr. Rifkind criticized the Israeli court which this week imposed only a fine of less than a penny on four soldiers found guilty of fatally shooting a Palestinian at a road block. He said this gave an impression that Israel put little value on Palestinian life."

That same day Malcolm Rifkind's secretary called the Israeli ambassador in London expressing Rifkind's reservations over the *Times* report. But the minister stopped short at demanding that the paper print a correction of the harsh statement attributed to him, that Israel "put little value on Palestinian life."

Whether or not Rifkind used such forceful language is immaterial, although the same British Foreign Office official who briefed the *Times* correspondent had apparently also compiled the minister's dossier for his meeting with his Israeli guest.

And that dossier included no detailed analysis of the trial and what led up to it, only a superficial impression gleaned from newspaper headlines (notably the leading story in the *Paris Herald Tribune*) to the effect that four Israeli soldiers had been fined one agora for killing a young Palestinian.

The truth is that the four, from a special unit, were not on trial for killing a Palestinian youth. They were being tried by a military court for disciplinary offenses, and the legal battle continues, with the prosecution appealing the soldiers' light sentence in relation to those offenses.

Foreign interference in the midst of a legal process clearly goes against the principle of sub *judice* Israel inherited from the British Mandate in this country. Such interference, with the attendant publicity, could well

influence the judges in the prosecution's forthcoming appeal.

ISRAEL has every right to be proud of its legal system, civil and military, and of the unsullied nature of its decisions. There cannot be many other countries fighting a war against terrorism that try soldiers and policemen accused of infringing norms of conduct.

Thus, in a related issue, no for-

Foreign judgment of the Israeli legal system isn't worth an agora

ign government official, diplomat or journalist has the right to criticize the Supreme Court's recent decision to grant a one-time restricted permit allowing physical pressure to be used against detainees suspected of having vital information that could prevent mass slaughter.

Those who would take issue with the court's verdict against the four soldiers should go back to November 13, 1993 and examine the overall background of the regrettable incident, which occurred some months after the declaration of principles with the PLO was signed. Yitzhak Rabin was premier and defense minister.

When hopes of calm following the agreement were dashed, Rabin gave the public and the army his assessment that the agreement were trying to derail it via terrorism; so, for the sake of peace, it was necessary to go all out against Palestinian terrorists.

Four days prior to the incident terrorists had hijacked a car and used it deliberately to run down

an Israeli Arab driving a car with Israeli number plates in the Gaza Strip.

In the face of additional attempted terror strikes the IDF set up roadblocks to deter such activity. And these roadblocks enabled the capture of four terrorists who had savagely murdered Haim Mizrahi of Beit El only 10 days earlier.

The four soldiers were obeying orders, namely, doing everything they could to catch terrorists trying to derail Oslo amid great efforts by their unit to frustrate terror attacks.

On Saturday November 13 a car with four Palestinian youths in it sped toward a roadblock. When the youths saw the roadblock and the soldiers they tried to escape. The soldiers opened fire, one of the fleeing youths was killed.

"At that time and in that place," said the court's verdict, "these soldiers could not have acted other than they did."

The death of 18-year-old Iyad Amal Badran, killed by fire from soldiers manning an Israeli roadblock, is to be regretted. But there should be no less regret over the death in the same week of Suleiman Albuasha, an Israeli citizen driving a car with Israeli license plates in the Gaza Strip, who was killed by Palestinian terrorists and left eight children orphaned.

Both were needless victims of the "armed struggle," a struggle which could have ended long ago but for clumsy outside interference.

Public criticism of Israel coming this week—of all weeks—amid reports of Palestinian preparations for violence in the runup to November 29 ("Palestine Day") can only create the impression that Israel's hands are tied, thus encouraging Palestinian provocation.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Peace works

RICHARD Z. CHESNOFF

SHIMON Peres was in New York last week to talk about peace.

The former Israeli prime minister—still smarting from his bitter electoral defeat by Binyamin Netanyahu last May—seemed unusually subdued. But Peres's personal plea for Arab-Jewish peace and coexistence was as heartfelt and impassioned as ever.

The 73-year-old Nobel laureate chose his audience well: a gathering of supporters of the Abraham Fund, a New York-based intercommunal group that promotes Jewish-Arab coexistence in Israel, funds projects for both communities and already has proud echoes of its lofty work in Gaza and the West Bank.

Not surprisingly Peres was named first recipient of the organization's Pioneer of Coexistence Award.

Alan Slička, the New York investment banker who cofounded the Abraham Fund seven years ago, set the tone.

"Arab-Jewish coexistence," Slička told the gathering at the New York Athletic Club, "was a moral imperative."

But it was Peres who underscored why. The alternative to coexistence, according to Peres: "More war, more bloodshed, more disaster."

That message has special urgency now. Agreement on security pending an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron is still not final; extremists on both sides are threatening violence, and more and more Israelis and Palestinians seem fearful that peace is fading like some desert mirage.

Of course opponents of Mideast peace consider the very idea of Arab-Israeli coexistence anathema. To cynics talk of it remains Pollyannaish at best. "It will never happen," they say.

Yet it's undeniable: Jews and Arabs have side-by-side shares in the Mideast's destiny.

I CAN'T argue with those who question the Oslo accords. It's less than a perfect deal for either

Economic growth is no cure-all. But it is a remedy for major chunks of Mideast suffering

side, and especially full of security holes for Israel. But as Peres put it, while "Yasser Arafat didn't become a Zionist he did agree to negotiate our differences."

Besides, even the Likud understands they're now an international reality and the only game in town.

Elihu Ben Elissar, Israel's new ambassador to Washington, told a recent New York meeting of the Anti-Defamation League's National Commission that peace is imperative and Israel must work within the Oslo framework, albeit much more slowly and skeptically than Peres and the Labor Party.

Fact is that for all the failures and backsliding we've seen recently there are successes. Some are small, but within the context of a bitter, century-old battle they're all large.

Israelis and Palestinians are still talking, still negotiating. Daily life in the West Bank has increasingly come under the autonomous control of the Palestinians who live there.

And just recently Israeli businessmen who would have been shunned if not attacked 10 years ago participated with Arab counterparts from all over the Middle East in a Cairo economic conference.

Economic growth is no cure-all. But it is a remedy for major chunks of Mideast suffering.

"Peace," says Peres "is a people-to-people enterprise... you have to privatize it, make it the business of all people, not just of governments."

One of those listening at last week's Abraham Fund dinner was Daniel Lubetzky. He's the young New York lawyer who, in the wake of the Arab-Israeli accords, founded a small import company called Peace Works.

The idea: to market new lines of Mideast food products grown and produced in Israel. Gaza, the West Bank and Egypt by Arabs and Jews working together.

When first reported two years ago, Peace Works had a handful of clients. Now, beams the Mexican-born Lubetzky, it boasts more than 2,600 accounts in 10 countries buying and selling everything from sundried tomatoes to flavored olive oils.

Maybe next year they can add milk and honey to their line. What better business for the Children of Abraham?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMERICAN FORBEARANCE

Sir—If Americans thought like Israeli politicians and journalistic pundits, the entire Republican Party and all American conservative Christians would be blamed for the extreme right-wing terrorism that has plagued the US in the 1990s.

After all, the Republican Party has campaigned against "big government" for decades; the terrorists who bombed a government building in Oklahoma City in 1994, massacring 169 people in the process, also profess to be opponents of "big government." Republican leaders have attacked President Clinton's "character" repeatedly over the past four years; during this time, there have been at least two assassination attempts against the president. The leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and the conservative Protestant churches in the US, along with many Republican leaders, have denounced legalized abortion; other abortion opponents have bombed medical clinics and assassinated doctors.

If Americans accepted the collective guilt and guilt-by-association theories put forward by Israeli politicians and pundits, they would claim that everyone who opposes "big government," abortions and Bill Clinton is implicated in these crimes—or at any rate, is obliged to do some "soul-searching."

In reality, of course, no one of any consequence in the US has suggested that legitimate political or religious conservatives are responsible for the crimes of a small extreme-right fringe. As a result, Americans are still able to hold rational political discussions with neighbors and fellow-citizens who disagree with them—instead of denouncing these neighbors and fellow-citizens as murderers, Israeli fashion.

Israelis would be wise to follow the American precedent of exercising at least some degree of forbearance in political discourse. To equate honest political dissent with terrorism is to hand the terrorists their greatest victory.

JOHN C. LANDAU

New Palz, N.Y.

THE PUBLIC'S TASTE

Sir—The funniest thing about your editorial "Unfunny coercion" (November 7) is the assertions it contains.

"Satire," you declare, "if it becomes simply malicious, vulgar or shocking, will fail on its own terms and is unlikely to survive for long." And you conclude: "MK Benizri would do well to rely on the public's good sense, good taste and their ability to vote with their remote control."

After nearly 25 years of voluntary work among youth and their families all over the country, I am wondering if the entire editorial was intended to be satire. After years of participating in their entertainment, listening to their music, and watching television and films with them, I find that anything that is "malicious, vulgar or shocking" is a sure recipe for popularity and success.

Blather about the public's "good sense and good taste" is far funnier than anything which appears on TV. The truth is that the public is in general responsive to everything that is degenerate in what passes for culture in the US and the West.

MEIR ABELSON

Jerusalem.

ORTHODOXY

Sir—Experience has shown that "non-Orthodox Judaism" is not a "stepping stone to greater observance," as your editorial of November 19 argues, but to assimilation.

The recognition given to conversions performed abroad by the Reform and Conservative movements is limited. In regard to marriage, these conversions, according to the status quo, are not recognized, and rightly so, if the intent is to continue a line and not to swell the ranks.

L. BEAME

Jerusalem.

UNPLEASANT REALITY

Sir—I refer to Philip Warburg's oped article of November 10, "Kept back." It seems that he is unaware of the experiences we have had with official Palestinian organizations. The suspicions of our security authorities concerning Palestinian office-holders are unfortunately well founded. A number of PA elected representatives exploited their diplomatic status to smuggle through people or materials meant to harm Israel's security. Cynical use was also made of wailing ambulances for the same purpose.

Relationships of trust and respect have to be based on the spirit of reciprocity. There have been proven cases in which PA officials misused their diplomatic immunity. This obliges our security forces to deny free movement to those who are potentially high security risks. The entire Israeli population endured a lot of inconvenience recently because of the fear of terror attacks, which was the reason for the closure and the fact that Mr. Warburg's colleague was denied free transit. This is an unpleasant reality which we must accept until real peace prevails in the region.

B. DAVID

Jerusalem.

WRONG ACCUSATION

Sir—The accusation you published against Agence France-Presse in *The Jerusalem Post* op-ed piece on November 14 is not only totally wrong, but also grotesque.

In reporting that Egyptian authorities accused an Israeli citizen of being a spy, AFP is only doing its job, as did all other news wires and media, including Israeli ones (and your own daily newspaper).

If you want to ridicule your newspaper, it's your problem, but I would like you to avoid mixing AFP in this enterprise.

LUC DE BARCROEZ, Bureau Chief, Agence France Presse

Jerusalem.

Tip of a huge iceberg

WE can congratulate ourselves. Palestinian society has come of age.

We not only have corruption, we have taken another step toward the developed countries.

This week the Arab media carried news of the first ever Western-style Palestinian kidnapping, complete with all the usual techniques used in this kind of crime, down to the call to the victim's parents (wealthy restaurant owners) and instructions on where the ransom money (NIS 350,000) should be delivered.

On Sunday nine-year-old Osama Paulos was kidnapped on his way to school in Ramallah by two men in a car. His ordeal did not last long. On Monday he was located by Palestinian police and returned to his family.

The kidnapping shook Palestinian society violently. There should be no sympathy shown to those who perpetrate such a crime. Every effort must be made to prevent it becoming a precedent, something that would surely shatter our social stability.

Whatever deterrents are deemed necessary should be enforced—even to the extent of capital punishment.

But the circumstances in our homeland are part of the picture.

WITHOUT any deliberate intention of playing down the severity of this week's kidnapping, one must look at the devastating economic situation in the Palestinian areas, where unemployment is rampant.

POSTSCRIPT

HEALTH OFFICIALS in Charleston are investigating the discovery of an amputated foot on a beach to determine whether a local surgeon had improperly disposed of infectious waste.

MOHAMMED SHAKER AHMED

employment has soared to unthinkable heights, reaching around 45 percent in the West Bank and 60 percent in the Gaza Strip.

The ease with which Osama was found indicates that the kidnapers were not professionals. The kidnapping was an amateurish business, a desperate act by desperate people.

With our economy unwillingly tied to Israel, our crippled indus-

This week's kidnapping of a Palestinian boy was more than a chilling crime

tries and agriculture could provide only minimal job opportunities for our workers.

The question that floats to the surface is: How can the vast majority of Palestinian families, now suffering from unemployment, earn their living when our dependence on Israel is exploited to serve Israel's own interests?

Closing off the Palestinian territories was the last straw. While Israel and the donor states have been persistent in their demands for security they have ignored the other side: the

potential violence, the possibility of internal Palestinian crime increasing threateningly.

What happened in Ramallah this week should serve as a warning of what might happen shortly unless our devastated economy improves and reaches tolerable levels.

If the international powers supporting the peace process were serious in their claims, what obstacles would stand in the way of building a consistent, productive and independent Palestinian economy, one capable of providing sufficient job opportunities for Palestinians?

It is neither convincing nor a contribution to peace for these states to stand by and idly watch a deteriorating situation beat to the verge of explosion.

Is it credible that the whole global peace bloc cannot help to build an economy that could provide a dignified standard of living for just two million people?

The case of Osama Paulos is the tip of an enormous iceberg. Chilling in itself as the incident is, it is an important indicator underlying the miserable conditions under which so many Palestinians live.

While the criminals in this case chose the path of the outlaw, most law-abiding people have resorted to patience, hope and waiting for things to change for the better.

But patience, too, has its limits.

The writer is political editor of the Palestinian daily Al-Kuds.

broke down and the contents spoiled.

The surgeon said he decided to put the foot in a crab trap to remove the flesh. The foot later washed up on the beach.

سكروا لامل

Confronting dreams

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

OCCASIONALLY, my six-year-old wakes up crying from a nightmare. She'll often be sitting up in bed, but seem only half awake. I'm usually able to soothe and calm her within a few minutes by just talking to her and telling her I'm there, and everything is all right. But, I'm wondering if there is a more creative way to handle nightmares in young children and to possibly stop them.

Tippi Moss, M.A. in psychology, dream-workshop leader and teacher of dream work at Ofek, the Jerusalem program for gifted children, replies:

First, we must distinguish between nightmares and night terrors. A child who wakes up from a night terror usually does so within the first two hours of sleep, when they're in their deepest level of sleep (not in REM sleep), and the child has little or no recall of the dream. If they do remember something, it's usually a general image like: "I was choking," or "something was after me."

Often the child will scream when it first wakes up, and might be disoriented for 10 to 20 minutes. The best thing here, is to do what you do - to be with the child, calm her and be confident that it will pass.

Chances are the child won't remember anything in the morning. Nightmares come during the regular dreaming phase of sleep - REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, and are usually vivid and detailed.

Here we can get into specific strategies. What's most important is for the parent to listen and reflect back the child's feelings. The child says: "I was really, really scared," and you say something like, "Yeah, I bet that was really frightening for you." You can ask: "What was the scariest part of the dream for you?"

Reassure them that this is their dream and they can change it. Ask: "How would you like to change the dream?" In other words, have them continue the dream-story while they are awake. Now they have the ability to

change it to their liking.

Children are much more flexible than most adults are in terms of what they can and can't do within a dream. So, you also can encourage them to go back and dream the dream again and actually change it. An example: When my daughter was five, she woke up crying and very frightened from a nightmare in which a dragon was chasing a unicorn. I said to her, "That's a powerful dream. You can go back to sleep and dream the dream and ask the dragon why it's chasing the unicorn, and then because of your bravery in confronting the dragon, you can ask for a gift."

The next morning she woke up and I asked her if she had been able to get back into the dream. She told me, with a big smile, that she had been able to, and that when she asked the dragon why it was chasing the unicorn, the dragon said it was because it loved the unicorn and wanted to live with it. When I asked if she received a gift, she said: "Yeah, 1,001 music boxes!"

You can teach your child to confront and conquer whatever is frightening within the dream. You can encourage the child to make friends with what is scaring him or her.

Or, if that seems too difficult, encourage the child to bring a powerful dream friend (e.g. Snapperman or a favorite animal) in to help - the child can do this either within the dream, or just by talking it through with you. The idea here is to show your child that she has the power within to conquer fears.

It also give a child a feeling of control over a dream to do something creative with it, for example, to draw the nightmare, and alternately, to draw the positive continuation of it that they invent.

Let your child know she is not alone with this, that lots of children have similar types of dreams. It's also empowering to read children stories in which characters confront frightening things like *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

Following the revelations about Swiss banks, attention is now turning to other supposedly neutral countries. Semy Kahan reports from Stockholm

COULD Sweden, like Switzerland, be hoarding the assets of Holocaust victims, and could the family bank of the well-known righteous gentile Raoul Wallenberg be at the heart of the matter?

These are questions which, following the recent publicity about the hoarding of Nazi-looted Jewish gold by Swiss banks, are now being raised about other countries which were supposedly neutral during the war, notably Sweden.

The Swedish press, which has devoted extensive coverage to the Swiss part of this issue, has paid little attention to the possible Swedish role in the matter. However, an economic daily in Stockholm published an article two months ago that hinted at the possibility that some of the looted gold that reached Sweden might still be in the vaults of the Swedish central bank.

The Art of Cloaking Ownership - The Case of Sweden, a book written by two Dutch researchers, Gerald Aalders and Cees Wiebes, which was published recently in English (although a shortened version appeared in Swedish in 1989) contains a detailed description of the economic transactions between Jakob and Marcus Wallenberg and the Germans during the war. They are uncles of the rescuer of Jews, Raoul Wallenberg.

The authors claim that the Wallenberg brothers played a double game between the Nazi regime and the Allied powers. Their conclusions are less than flattering to the Wallenbergs, who headed a huge economic empire in Sweden, including large corporations and banks with widespread international connections. The Dutch researchers cite various transactions in their book, made by the Enskilde Bank, owned by the

Sweden said to be hoarding Nazi-looted gold



Wallenbergs, which included looted Jewish property from countries under German occupation.

According to their information there were, among others, transactions of gold between Germany and Sweden during the war, which according to official American sources were worth a total of \$21.6 million. This gold had been looted from Jews and central banks in Nazi-occupied countries. In 1946 Marcus Wallenberg told British diplomats that Enskilde Bank had purchased looted bonds and other securities.

The Dutch authors claim that most of these assets belonged to Jews. The publication of their book resulted in much criticism in Sweden. One of the authors, Aalders, said that at their suggestion the bank promised to send them their counterarguments in writing, but the bank has refrained from doing so until today.

Although the publication of the book in Swedish aroused a lot of reaction and com-

ments concerning the role of the Wallenberg brothers during the war, the discussion that followed did not delve into the claims made by its authors concerning looted Jewish assets and the part played by Swedish banks in dealing with them.

However, a former Swedish diplomat, Sven Fredrik Hedin, displayed interest in the Jewish assets unclaimed after the Holocaust. "My decision to investigate this question was taken by chance," he said. "A few years ago I read a book about economic fiction and a footnote aroused my curiosity and gave me the first lead on the issue of Jewish wartime property."

"Today I know about assets, at least a part of them owned by Jews, which during the war were smuggled into Sweden through various channels, some of them over the Danish and Norwegian borders."

Hedin says he has information about dormant bank accounts in Sweden which contain gold, money deposits, securities and so

on. He is focusing on accounts owned by Jews. Hedin says his investigation is now nearing completion, but the delicacy of the stage it is at means he cannot presently reveal the detailed information he has unearthed. Hedin searched for relevant documents in a number of Swedish archives, including the National Archive. He is optimistic that he will be able to uncover the truth about this delicate issue.

What is clear is that the documents in the National Archive in Stockholm contain a considerable number of Jewish-sounding names, listed by unclaimed assets in Swedish banks. The legal adviser of the Swedish Bank Inspection Authority, Hans Schodin, says that he has no knowledge of this issue, because until now no interested party has come forward and therefore they saw no reason to investigate the matter. But he stressed that if a formal application was made, they would initiate a thorough investigation, probably in a similar manner to that currently being carried out in Switzerland. Two people who have in the past had contact with the economic empire of the Wallenberg family made a strenuous attempt to deny any knowledge about the matter when approached by this reporter. But it seems to be that "there is no smoke without fire" in this matter.

The director general of the Israel office of the World Jewish Congress, Avi Becker, announced that the WJC has decided to open an investigation into the Swedish connection.

The WJC was previously involved in the 1960s in negotiations with the Swedish Banking Association concerning Jewish bank deposits in Sweden that were made before the war, mainly from other Baltic countries, most of which were not reclaimed after the war.

There was a wide gap between the amounts that the banks were prepared to pay and the amounts that, according to reliable sources, were held by the banks. For this reason, the WJC was at that time opposed to a settlement, but the Organization of Jewish Survivors in Sweden wished to close the matter and a settlement was made in 1974 according to the terms dictated by the banks.

The WJC now intends to clarify what happened with the assets that remained in the possession of the banks, which were in 1974 valued at around 2 million Swedish krona (NIS 4 million). In a change of policy, the Jewish community in Sweden has now decided to support a comprehensive investigation on this issue.

Netanyahu feels at home under the golden arches

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu, who in the eyes of many symbolizes the Americanization of Israel, even though it was one of his predecessors, Golda Meir, who spoke Hebrew with an American accent, has unwittingly become an endorsement for one of the most visible signs of the American influence on the Israeli lifestyle. *Ha'aretz*, which ran an in-depth story on him in its weekend magazine last Friday, showed him on the hustings against the backdrop of the golden arches of McDonald's. He should ask for commission and donate it to the social welfare budget.

BECAUSE HER marriage to international television executive Farrell Meisel necessitates her living abroad, Vered Kollek has found herself commuting between wherever he is stationed and her home in Jerusalem. When they resided in New York, she came home at least four times a year. Now that they've moved to London, she's become a more frequent flyer. But on this current visit, she's still commuting, this time between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv - to finalize the editing of her mystery thriller which rumor has it may be adapted by Hollywood.

YOU'VE COME a long way baby. In the early days of the state, smelling of the sweat of one's

labors was almost a status symbol. But as the citizenry became more affluent and refined, it took to more pleasant fragrances, and now, according to Antonin Carreau, export area manager for Guerlain of Paris, Israel is, on a per-capita basis, one of the leading perfume markets in the world. Carreau was here for the Israel launch of his company's new fragrance, "Champs Elysees," the 324th in Guerlain's long history. The investment in the October-November global launch of Champs Elysees, Carreau disclosed at a gala dinner in Tel Aviv's Dan Panorama Hotel, is \$60 million. So that's what they mean by the sweet smell of success.

WHO SAYS that Jewish philanthropy is on the wane? Andrea Bronfman of Canada and Sassie Propper of Israel last week unveiled the honor board of Beth Hatefutsoth's 100 Club. All the donors listed had given at least \$30,000 to the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora. Donors included Judy and Avi Tiomkin, Simla and Leon Reznani, Michele and Robert Assaraf of Morocco, Mendel and Jill Caplan, Irit and Jonathan Kolber, Ruti and Yuli Ofer and Fatigie and Rubin Zimmerman. The large number of American donors included Edgar Bronfman and Ronald Lauder, who have each given extensively

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

to a variety of projects in Israel. The 100 Club was initiated 10 months ago and, according to Kolber, it represents "a partnership between the philanthropic communities of Israel and the Diaspora."

IN ISRAEL as a guest of the Tel Aviv Museum, celebrated French actress Anouk Aimee revealed that she's a "member of the tribe" and that her original name was Nicole Françoise Judith Dreyfus.

THE SIGHT of a huge gathering of women in Tel Aviv was more daunting than the battlefield to Air Force Commander Major-General Eitan Ben-Eliahu. He had taken part in many air battles in Israel's wars, he told delegates at British WIZO's triennial conference headed by Ruth Sotnick, "but believe me, I found them less alarming than standing before you this evening."

HE MIGHT be a bacon-and-eggs man at home, but when he's travel-

ing, Britain's Prince Charles is extremely cautious about what he has for breakfast. On a recent visit to Kyrgyzstan, the prince was served the national dish for breakfast - horse meat. A keen equestrian, and like most members of the royal family a lover of horses, the prince diplomatically declined, explaining that he doesn't eat meat for breakfast. Sometimes, it's just easier to be kosher.

AGELESS FILMSTAR Raquel Welch, whose plastic surgeons keep her eternally young, has taken up with a new beau. The gorgeous, 56-year-old redhead with the silicon uplift has the Hollywood gossips gasping in envy.

Her current heart-throb is British boxing champion Gary Starch, who is 25 years her junior. Aside from her sex appeal, Welch is a multi-millionaire, which is an attraction in itself.

WOW, THE tape of marital bliss is better than the alleged Bibi-tape, made in his pre-PM days when he was sowing his extramarital wild oats. But in the case of *Baywatch*

beauty Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee, her husband of two years, the tape of their love-making is the very cause of the breakup of their marriage. Pamela threatened that she would leave Tommy if the tape was ever made public, and since it somehow found its way to *Penthouse*, Pamela has let Tommy know in no uncertain terms that their differences are indeed irreconcilable, and that the divorce papers are on the way. She's also seeking custody of their five-month-old son Brandon.

PRETTY WOMAN Julia Roberts who shared a long romance with John Kennedy Jr in the days when he was still considered one of America's most eligible bachelors caused a flar-up between John John and his wife Carolyn.

Soon after returning from their honeymoon, the newlyweds threw a party for those of their friends who had not been at the wedding. John John invited Julia. A less than



Head of British WIZO Ruth Sotnick (center) is flanked by Helena Glaser and Air Force Commander Eitan Ben-Eliahu.

happy Carolyn insisted that she come with a man of her own.

REVLOL TO the rescue, or at least Revlon chairman Ronald Perleman who has just signed a contract with the debt-ridden Duchess of York, which may well

put her back in a state of solvency. Revlon is putting out a new fragrance called "Fergie," which according to Perleman will be marketed primarily in the US. It is not intended for the British market, where it might put a few royal noses out of joint.

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THE JERUSALEM POST International Edition

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, November 27, 1996

Avner insurer lacks sufficient capital to stay in market

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AVNER, the compulsory car insurance company, does not have sufficient capital to operate in the field, based on the Supervisor of Insurance regulations, according to the Gabai and Partners accountancy firm's evaluation of the company.

The accountancy firm was asked to examine the firm, on behalf of Amitai, the non-profit organization to protect citizens rights. Amitai commissioned the examination in light of the Ministry of Finance intention to renew the law which authorizes Avner's existence. Amitai has also appealed to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair on the issue.

Avner currently handles all compulsory car insurance, which includes all claims for personal injury.

The Gabai report concludes that Avner has accumulated a deficit of NIS 780m, Israel Radio revealed yesterday. To meet the Supervisor of Insurance capital regulations, the company's capital must

reach at least \$55m. The implications of the report are that Avner has been operating illegally for many years, and that it will be very difficult extending its operating license in this situation, said an insurance source yesterday.

Avner could not be reached for comment.

Earlier this month, Supervisor of Monopolies Yoram Turbovich told the Knesset he had been forbidden by Ben-Yair to give them his professional opinion as to whether Avner constituted an illegal restraint of trade.

At the meeting, Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) proposed to renew Avner's license for one year only, during which time the government would have to come up with a serious proposal for opening compulsory car insurance to competition. According to Yahalom, Avner violates the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, and might also constitute illegal restraint of trade.

Experts to gov't: Don't retreat from options plan

DAVID HARRIS

THE previous government's so-called "options plan," which meant to sell state assets to the general public through a voucher scheme, is perfectly workable, and the Netanyahu government should reconsider its apparent rejection of it, economists who spoke yesterday in a Jerusalem seminar agreed.

Professor Dan Galai of Sigma PCM consultants, who during yesterday's closing sessions at the Hebrew University-Koret Foundation seminar on privatization and the capital markets, urged all interested parties, including academics and politicians, to "reopen the debate on options."

The "options plan," pioneered in the Czech Republic, and proposed in Israel by former finance minister Avraham Shohat is not a favored privatization method with the new government.

The program involves distributing to the public free options vouchers that could be used to purchase a package of shares in firms that stand to be privatized, before they are floated in various local and foreign financial markets.

"The markets will cope with this

scheme," said Galai. "The money doesn't go to a small controlling group. It means all of Israel can benefit."

Addressing the seminar on Monday night, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu failed to include the "options plan" in his list of preferred methods of hiving-off state assets. Currently, Netanyahu is examining three other possibilities: Public flotation on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, flotation on foreign markets, and selling the controlling share. Netanyahu said he favors a mixture of all three alternatives.

Support for the "options plan" also came yesterday from Hebrew University economists Dr. Avi Ben-Bassat - who said he favors all forms of privatization - and Professor David Levhari.

While the experts agreed much of the privatization process could be handled via flotations on the TASE, they differed over the timing. Professor Amir Barnea, a member of the Brodet committee on reforming the capital markets, said it would be impossible to launch pub-

lic flotations while the markets are in such a poor state. He also questioned the government's motives for wanting some privatization to take place in Tel Aviv. "Is the market appropriate for privatization at the moment, or is privatization seen as a way of returning the markets to health?" asked Barnea. "I don't see the current capital markets as appropriate for privatization."

However, other speakers, including Ben-Bassat and Galai, said it could be done now.

Galai pointed out that current liquid assets on the TASE total some NIS 540 billion. With each company being sold at a maximum of NIS 20 billion, Galai does not envisage any problems in coping with the relatively small additional volume.

Meanwhile, Shohat (yesterday challenged Netanyahu to stick to his word and implement his privatization pledges. "They said there would already be privatization in September, we've gone through October, and almost into December," said Shohat. "To my great sorrow I cannot address Netanyahu's words with any seriousness."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bezeq is in the final stage of installing \$3.5 million worth of computerized equipment that allows 166 operators to determine the cause of malfunctioning phone lines and technicians to initiate an "early diagnosis" of problems even before the customer has noticed them. It even advises repair teams on how to fix the breakdowns. The project, called Bahar 2000, is being carried out by Digital computers and the Compro software company.

Additional, more sophisticated parts can be attached to the new equipment in the future, Bezeq Director-General Yizhak Kaul said. According to Digital, the system was developed specifically for Bezeq and will be put to its exclusive use.

Meanwhile, Bezeq's purchasing committee has chosen the American Management System company for establishing a new collections system; the sub-contractor will be Formula, a local company. The complicated system will allow calculations of various rates for phone services and charges by other suppliers. Kaul said it would help Bezeq compete with private companies and reduce reaction time to competitors' special offers. Judy Siegel

Finance Committee supports increasing Tourism Ministry's budget: The Knesset Finance Committee said yesterday that it would support the Tourism Ministry's request for extra money to launch a massive publicity campaign to combat the sharp drop in tourism this year. The ministry wants NIS 6 million added to its budget for this purpose. It also will contribute NIS 3m. from other items in its existing budget. A vote on the request, like all the other budgetary votes, will be held only in a few weeks, however. Evelyn Gordon

Oil Refineries moves into red despite massive layoffs

COMPANY RESULTS
GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Oil Refineries Ltd., Israel's third largest company, announced a sharp drop in earnings and a shift from profit to loss in the third quarter of the year, despite the company's implementation of a development program and the retirement of 250 workers.

The state owned manufacturer of petroleum products, lubrication oils, and bitumen reported a third quarter net loss of NIS 6.67 million compared with a net profit of NIS 29.4m. in the corresponding period last year.

In the first nine months of the year, net earnings plunged to NIS 1.65m. compared with a net profit of NIS 81.1m. in the same period in 1995.

Management blamed the drop on the continued erosion of the dollar currency rate compared with the shekel, and the drop in prices of petrochemical industry products. Management said prices have declined 10% of percent in the reported period.

Key factors which led to the decrease in earnings included a sharp drop in subsidiary companies engaged in the petrochemicals field to NIS 55m. compared with NIS 224m. in the first nine months of last year.

The lower results were partly offset by an improvement in the refining sector. In the first nine months of the year, the sector reported losses of NIS 39m. compared with NIS 153m. in the same period in 1995.

"Despite the improvement in the refining sector on international markets, compared with the same period last year, the export profitability remains low and Oil Refineries was forced to reduce refining to a level which will meet the supply of the local market, sign export contracts, and balance the basket of products," said the company.

Zim Israel Navigation Company completed the third quarter with a net loss of \$6.3m. compared with a net profit of NIS 5.3m. in the same period last year.

The company concluded the first nine months of the year with a net loss of \$2.1m. as compared to a net profit of \$8.8m. in the same period last year.

The third quarter loss is after a provision for taxes in the amount of \$2.3m. while the nine month loss is after a provision of \$6.3m.

Operating profit before expenses fell to \$22.8m. in the first three

quarters of the year compared with \$39.7m. in the same period last year, a decrease of 42.6%.

The number of containers carried by the company in the reported period reached 668,400 TEUs as compared to 651,300 TEUs in the same period last year, an increase of 2.6%. Despite the increase, the total income from shipping and related services fell 1.8% to \$1.08b from \$1.07b. last year.

"The decrease in income, derives from a growing erosion in freight rates in most of the trade areas, due to fierce competition in the Israeli trade as well as in the international one," said management.

Zim said the competition is mainly due to a growing gap between the supply of space and demand of cargo volumes in all trade areas.

"This gap lately escalated in the whole industry as a result of the introduction of large vessels, which were ordered on the basis of forecasts showing a substantial increase in the main trading areas between countries - a forecast which has not materialized," said management.

Management said the over capacity experienced by large container shipping companies, which mainly operate in the East-West route, caused them to enter secondary trade areas like Israel "in order to fill their cargo volume potential," said management, adding that this has caused a notable erosion in the freight rates.

Israel Discount Bank reported a 48.8% growth in net profits for the third quarter of 1996, to NIS 81.6m., compared with NIS 54.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net income for the first nine months of the year rose 11% to NIS 217.7m. compared with NIS 196.1m. in the same period last year. Net return on equity on an annual basis rose to 7.7% at the end of September compared with 7.3% for all of last year.

In the financial reports, management said the bank has requested the government to assist in publishing a prospectus, in February 1997, for a public offering of part of the shares held by the State. The bank has decided to raise, concurrently with the government's offering, up to NIS 300m., by issuing subordinated capital notes to the public in Israel. Management said this will expand its operational base and improve its capital ratio.

UBS restructures in home market, takes 1996 loss

ZURICH (Reuters) - Union Bank of Switzerland, the nation's biggest bank, yesterday said it would take a one-time charge of three billion Swiss francs (\$2.32 billion) to cover rising loan risks from the stagnant Swiss economy, causing a net loss for 1996.

UBS also said it would cut 800 jobs or 3.7 percent of its Swiss workforce as part of a domestic restructuring plan aimed at cutting costs and boosting profitability in its economically weak but over-banked home market. It said a provision of SFr120 million would be taken for Swiss restructuring, including reducing regional centers from 31 to 8, centralizing securities trading and shutting 30 small branches from a national network of 295.

UBS, the last of Switzerland's "Big Three" banks to unveil major domestic changes this year, said it would post a 1996 loss of about SFr500 million rather than a net profit of 1.8b. due to the charge for risky loans and the restructuring costs.

"Despite the loss...our shareholders will receive an unchanged dividend," chief executive Mathis Caballavetta told a news conference. "On top of this, they can be sure that group results will be significantly stronger in the years ahead as new, unexpected provisions will no longer be a restraint on earnings," he added.

UBS shares fell after the announcement, dropping SFr35 to 1,235 late in the day, as investors

who had speculated on more spectacular cutbacks sold off. The news had a wider impact by helping the Swiss franc hit 21-month lows against the dollar and 20-month lows against the mark on reaction to UBS's pessimistic view of the Swiss economy. Caballavetta, who took over as CEO last April, said he expected a return to "good growth" in profits next year, including added earnings of around SFr200m. a year expected from a more efficient Swiss structure.

UBS posted a group net profit in 1995 of SFr1.673b. In April it rejected a merger proposal from CS Holding that would have produced the world's second biggest bank after Japan's Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

Caballavetta said the complex transaction around the one-time charge, including using SFr711m. in reserves to reduce the net loss, would pull group equity down to SFr21.5b. at the end of 1996, from 23b. at the end of 1995.

Caballavetta said the charge of three billion francs was meant to cover projected loan risks for the next two or three years and should stabilize annual provisions at around SFr500m. from 1997. Ordinary provisions for bad loans this year would total SFr1.4b., in addition to the three billion charge.

UBS's steps followed more drastic plans unveiled by rivals CS Holding and Swiss Bank Corp to cope with an oversupply of retail banking in the small Swiss market and mounting loan risks after six years of virtually zero growth in the Swiss economy.

All three banks have a booming global business in asset management and investment banking but saw those profits being cut by high costs for Swiss retail business and exploding provisions for risky Swiss loans.

"Given the gloomy prospects for the future (of the Swiss economy), we are now being forced to make provisions for customers who, only a short while ago, were considered to be absolutely creditworthy and solvent," Caballavetta said.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

OPEN INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR THE GAZA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - PALESTINE

The Gaza Industrial Estate Project is being developed by PADICO. The European Investment Bank and the International Finance Corporation (along with a number of international financial institutions) have been approached to consider a long-term financing facility for the project.

The Palestine Development and Investment Ltd. (PADICO) invites all specialized contractors to bid for the following tenders.

- SITE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES (PHASE 1):**
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b- Water distribution networks (potable, brackish and fire fighting).
c- Sewage and storm water drainage networks.
d- Electricity and telecommunications networks.
- SUPPLY, ASSEMBLY AND ERECTION OF STEEL STRUCTURE AND FINISHES FOR STANDARD FACTORY BUILDINGS:**
Scope of work: Supply, assembly and erection of 24 standard steel factory buildings of 24 meters x 48 meters each. (Total approximate area = 27700 sq.m.) Work includes all civil work finishes, and all electromechanical articles inside the factory buildings. Foundations and concrete ground floors are not included in this contract.
- CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX BUILDINGS:**
Scope of work: Complete construction of conventional R.C. concrete skeleton buildings with all finishes, including all electromechanical works:
a- Administration building - ground floor only, approximate total area = 1145 sq.m.
b- Two-story fire station building, approximate total area = 1035 sq.m.
c- Two-story clinic and gymnasium buildings, approximate total area = 675 sq.m.
d- One-story police station building, approximate total area = 225 sq.m.
e- One-story bank and PTT office building, approximate total area = 320 sq.m.

The client (PADICO) has the full right to exclude from the contract before signing the agreement, some or all of the above-mentioned amenity buildings (b, c, d, e).

The tender documents are available at PADICO offices in Gaza or Amman at the following addresses:

Gaza: PADICO Al-Rasheed Street, Gaza Beach P.O. Box 4048, Gaza - Frenal Tel. (972-7) 826313/826323 Fax. (972-7) 825013

OR

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- Bids for each of the above tenders should be submitted in two sealed separate envelopes, as follows:
a) Technical proposals for pre-qualification
b) Financial proposal
- The technical pre-qualification proposals will be opened first and evaluated. The financial proposals of disqualified bidders will be returned to them unopened.
- The last date set for the purchase of the tender documents is 2 p.m. on December 7, 1996.
- The tenders are to be submitted to the PADICO offices not later than 2 p.m. on January 5, 1997.
- The price of each set of the above tenders is 300 US dollars (non-refundable).

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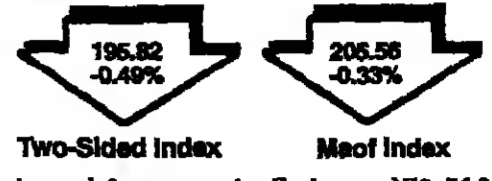
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U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.750	5.050	5.370	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.750	5.050	5.370	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	1.825	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.11.96)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.6109	3.6696	3.6109	3.6696
German mark	2.1102	2.1443	2.1102	2.1443
French franc	0.5225	0.5475	0.5225	0.5475
Japanese yen (100)	2.8996	2.9058	2.8996	2.9058
Dutch florin	1.8807	1.9111	1.8807	1.9111
Swiss franc	2.4820	2.5392	2.4820	2.5392
Swedish krona	0.4901	0.4903	0.4901	0.4903
Norwegian krona	0.5495	0.5594	0.5495	0.5594
Denish krona	0.7011	0.7126	0.7011	0.7126
Finland mark	2.3942	2.4329	2.3942	2.4329
Canadian dollar	2.8015	2.9438	2.8015	2.9438
Australian dollar	0.8887	0.9100	0.8887	0.9100
S. African rand	1.0235	1.0401	1.0235	1.0401
Belgian franc (10)	2.9988	3.0470	2.9988	3.0470
Austrian schilling (10)	2.1258	2.1601	2.1258	2.1601
Italian lira (1000)	4.4700	4.7800	4.4700	4.7800
Jordanian dinar	0.9100	1.0000	0.9100	1.0000
Egyptian pound	4.0676	4.1333	4.0676	4.1333
Irish punt	5.3804	5.4672	5.3804	5.4672
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5085	2.5491	2.5085	2.5491
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

TASE drops for second day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

STOCKS dropped for a second day after the Central Bank left interest rates unchanged, dashing investor hopes of a boost for the economy and the share market. 'There's disappointment about monetary policy,' said Ephraim Steinbrueh, analyst at Ofek Securities in Tel Aviv. Expectations for a cut 'were really high and now we're down.'

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency and rate.

INTEL STOCK MARKETS table with columns for stock name and price.

New York market indexes table with columns for index name and change.

NYSE stocks table with columns for stock name and change.

Other stock market indexes table with columns for index name and change.

Israeli stocks in US table with columns for stock name and change.

Large table of various stock market data including company names and prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading sections with columns for stock names and prices.

Main table of Tel Aviv stock market data with columns for stock name, price, and change.

FTSE hits record, then drops back

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British stocks ended well below their early highs yesterday as early Wall Street losses coupled with a series of tax measures in the British budget dragged the market below its early record levels.

INTEL MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market data including dollar cross rates and interest rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommsStock Trading Ltd. advertisement.

INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS table with columns for commodity name and price.

Spot market metals (US) and London metal prices tables.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK advertisement with logo and contact information.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries and companies.

Volatile Dow drops on profit-taking

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed moderately lower Tuesday after scrambling their way back up from steep losses as investors cashed in some profits from the market's run into record territory.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for currency and rate.

OTTAWA table with columns for stock name and price.

National squad looks for speed to cut down larger Slovaks

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

NATIONAL basketball team coach Zvi Sherf hopefully packed a ladder in his luggage on the flight to Slovakia for tonight's crucial game vs. the much taller Slovakian side (Channel 1, 8:45pm).

However, Sherf and the rest of the national squad are banking on the old maxim. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall," and should have a good chance of beating the Slovaks and improving their chances of advancing to next year's European Championships in Spain.

After all, the game couldn't come at a better time for Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer, who have been red hot of late for Maccabi Tel Aviv and should form the starting backcourt. Forward Nadav Henefeld also had a fine game vs. Stefanel Milan last week.

The problem, however, is the rebounding, or the prospective lack of it. Tomer Steinhauser has left the national side in protest over his lack of playing time in the team's 86-84 OT loss to Greece last month.

That leaves Ofri Fleischer, Amir Mukhtari and Doron Cohen to do most of the work under the boards, and they should have their hands full with the Slovakian giants. If the Slovaks control the boards, the Israelis' strength - their far better transition game - could be in trouble.

The Slovaks have no chance to advance to Spain, but are nonetheless taking the game seriously. An indication has been an "emergency call-up" of all the best Slovakian players scattered throughout Europe, including big man Richard Petruska, who didn't

play when the Israelis whipped the Slovaks 86-69 at home back in October, 1995.

Another big man who was missing then but will be very much in evidence tonight is Vladek Matitski (2.10), who will also be called to the flag for Slovakia.

The Slovaks are also potentially dangerous from three-point range, and should be much improved over the club that lost so badly here a year ago.

Much has changed on the Israeli squad since then, too. Guy Goodes was the star of that game, registering 21 points and eight assists before going down a short time later with a knee injury while playing for Maccabi. Goodes - who only just this week has resumed practicing with Maccabi - has now been replaced at the point by Sheffer, and that should be to the team's advantage, especially based on the former UConn star's fantastic 30 point performance in Milan last week.

Oded Katash scored just three points vs. Slovakia in the first game, but has come a long, long way since then. His emergence as an offensive threat should be another plus for Israel.

Faced with a Herculean job under the boards, the national squad will have to rely on its speed to beat the hosts. Moti Daniel is likely to be the fifth starter for Scherf, although he might opt for Doron Jamehi instead. Adi Gordon, who hit the clutch three-pointer vs. Greece to force overtime, will likely see considerable action as well.

If the speedier Israelis can somehow fight their way through for an occasional rebound, they should have the advantage and win tonight's encounter.

In other basketball news this week, Hapoel Jerusalem made it official, announcing the signing of Gadi Kedar as its coach through the 1997-98 season.

Kedar started out as an assistant to Yoram Harush, currently Sherf's assistant at Maccabi, when Harush coached in Jerusalem. He eventually took over Hapoel Jerusalem, then "crossed the tracks" and coached at Maccabi Ramat Gan.

His return to Hapoel Jerusalem is expected to go over well with players like Adi Gordon and Papi Turgeeman, who played for him in his first stop with Hapoel.

Meanwhile, Hapoel Jerusalem fans will have one of their favorites back for the next round of league games: Jonathan Dalzal. Dalzal, who had a contract dispute with the club, reportedly had it settled by league officials this week, who ruled that instead of being paid damages by the club, he would be reinstated.

His return should provide some needed additional defense and three-point shooting for Jerusalem.

In other moves this week, Maccabi Tel Aviv now sports Twins Towers: Eric Gingold, a 2.23 Jewish player drafted by the Chicago Bulls, has been loaned to Maccabi by the NBA champs to get some playing experience and should make an interesting tandem playing alongside the huge Rumanian Constantin Popa.

Dolphins no match for men of Steel

Late-game touchdown pass seals 24-17 victory for Pittsburgh in Miami

MIAMI (AP) - Mike Tomczak outpassed Dan Marino, and the Pittsburgh Steelers overtook the Miami Dolphins.

Tomczak threw for 252 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown to Ernie Mills with 2:10 remaining, and Pittsburgh rallied from an 11-point second-quarter deficit to win 24-17 Monday night.

Marino moved Miami 73 yards in the final two minutes to the 7-yard line, but his pass to Scott Miller on fourth-and-1 with 25 seconds left fell incomplete.

The Steelers (9-3) increased their lead to three games over second-place Houston in the AFC Central. The Dolphins (6-6) suffered a blow in their bid for a wild-card berth.

Miami scored only one touchdown against the Steelers' defense, which has allowed the fewest yards and points in the AFC.

Marino's 35-yard pass to Troy Drayton set up a 41-yard field goal by Joe Nedney to tie the game 17-17 late in the third quarter. But Nedney missed a 48-yarder with 8:1-2 minutes left.

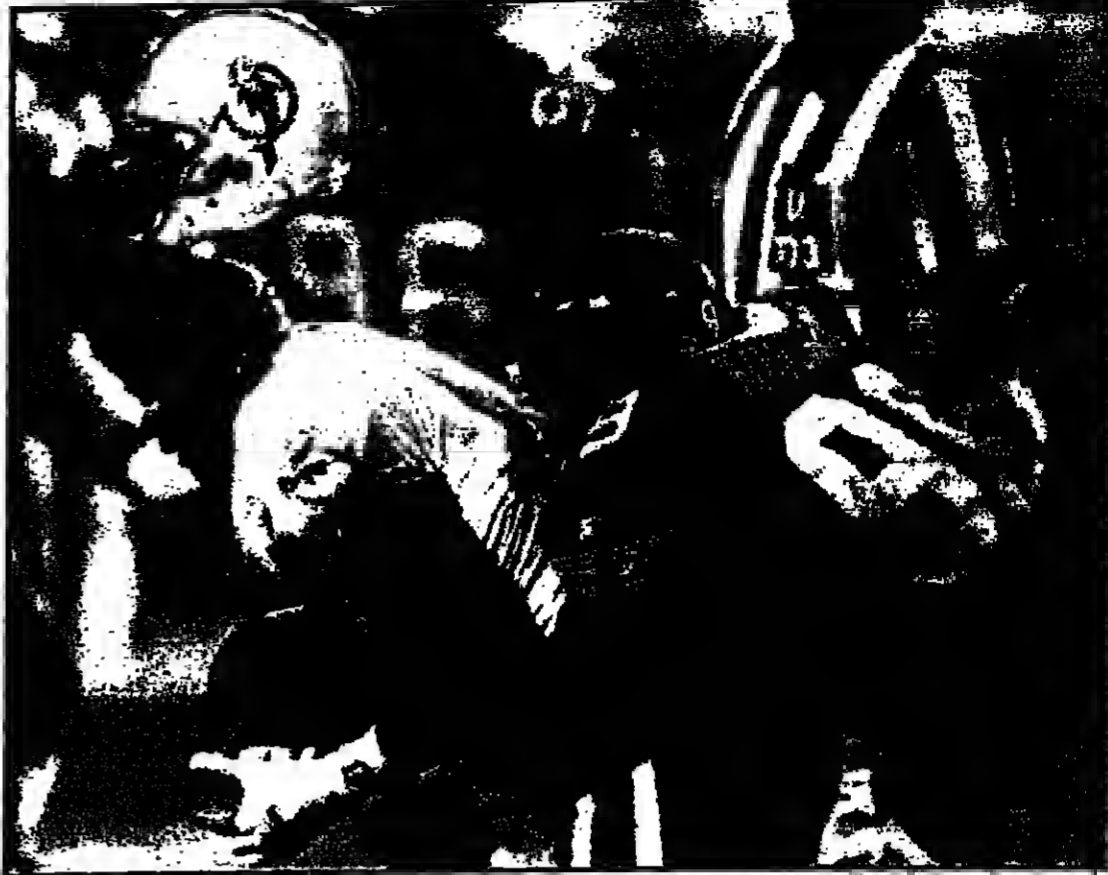
Pittsburgh's second sack of Marino backed up the Dolphins, and a punt gave the Steelers the ball at the Miami 45 with six minutes to go.

Tomczak's touchdown pass came eight plays later on third-and-8. Mills broke free in the end zone when cornerback Terrell Buckley collided with a teammate.

Tomczak, who also hit completions of 34, 36 and 38 yards, was 16-for-29 and overcame two early turnovers. He lost a fumble to end a scoring threat, then threw an interception that Calvin Jackson returned 61 yards for a touchdown.

Marino completed 22 of 37 passes for 254 yards. He had two passes dropped, spoiling apparent first downs.

The Dolphins took the opening kickoff and drove 76 yards in 15 plays for a 7-0 lead. Marino com-



LOSIN' IT - Miami tight end Troy Drayton (left) loses his helmet after getting hit from behind by Pittsburgh linebacker Levon Kirkland in the first quarter of Monday night's game.

pleted all six of his attempts, including a 2-yarder to O.J. McDuffie on third down for the score.

Midway through the second quarter, Tomczak tried to hit Andre Hastings on short sideline route, but Jackson stepped between them to make the interception. He juggled the ball, then took off and scored untouched for a 14-3 Miami lead.

The Steelers' comeback began on their next possession with an 80-yard drive. Tomczak hit Mark Bruener for 37 yards, and at the 5-yard line reserve quarterback

Kordell Stewart fooled the defense with an option and pitched to Tim Lester, who scored untouched.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Buffalo	8	5	.615
New England	8	4	.667
Indianapolis	6	8	.429
Miami	6	6	.500
N.Y. Jets	1	11	.083
Cincinnati	9	3	.750
Houston	8	6	.569
Cleveland	5	7	.417
Jacksonville	6	7	.462
Baltimore	3	9	.250
West	11	1	.917
Denver	8	4	.667
Kansas City	7	5	.583
San Diego	5	7	.417
Oakland	5	7	.417
Seattle	5	7	.417

NATIONAL CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Washington	8	4	.667
Dallas	7	5	.583
Philadelphia	7	5	.583
Arizona	6	6	.500
N.Y. Giants	5	7	.417
Green Bay	8	3	.730
Minnesota	8	3	.730
Chicago	6	7	.462
Detroit	5	7	.417
San Francisco	4	8	.333
Seattle	9	3	.750
Carolina	6	4	.600
St. Louis	3	9	.250
Atlanta	2	10	.167
New Orleans	2	10	.167

MONDAY'S NFL RESULT: Pittsburgh 24, Miami 17
TOMORROW: Kansas City at Detroit, Washington at Dallas

Washington's defense holds back Minnesota for a 105-98 win

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) - The Washington Bulls held Minnesota to 12 points in the first quarter and built an 18-point half-time lead en route to a 105-98 victory, their third straight.

Jwan Howard scored 24 points Monday night and Chris Webber had 16 points and 15 rebounds as the Bulls moved over .500 for the first time since opening night. Washington (7-6) never trailed in beating the Timberwolves for the

fourth consecutive time since December 1994.

Tom Gugliotta had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost four of five overall and six straight on the road. Rookie Stephen Marbury, playing with a sprained right ankle, had 13 points in 21 minutes.

Bulls 88, Clippers 84
Making sure visiting Chicago didn't lose two in row, Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen took over early in the

fourth quarter. Jordan, who finished with 40 points, scored eight and Pippen had seven during a 17-4 run in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter to put the Bulls on top 81-70.

Chicago, behind 66-64 to start the period, led it on a Jordan jump 20 seconds into the quarter, then went ahead for the first time on a fast-break basket by Dennis Rodman.

Stanley Roberts came off the bench to lead the Clippers with 15 points, and Loy Vaughn had 14 points and 13

rebounds. Rodman had 14 rebounds for the Bulls and Pippen had 11 rebounds to go with 15 points.

Bucks 100, Magic 88
Arnon Gilliam scored 15 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Milwaukee shot 77 percent in the period.

The Bucks only took 13 shots from the field in the last quarter, and made 10 of them. Gilliam scored 11 of his team's first 17 points, then made five free throws in the final 2:34 to help put

the game away. The loss was the Magic's third in six games at Orlando Arena this month. The defending Atlantic Division champions only lost four times at home all of last season.

Nick Anderson led Orlando, which shot 36 percent in the fourth quarter, with 25 points.

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Washington 105, Minnesota 98, Milwaukee 100, Orlando 88, Utah 108, New Jersey 92, Chicago 88, L.A. Clippers 84

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Miami	8	4	.667
Orlando	8	6	.569
New York	6	5	.545
Washington	6	5	.545
Philadelphia	5	7	.417
Boston	3	9	.250
New Jersey	2	7	.222
Central Division	13	1	.929
Chicago	10	2	.833
Cleveland	6	3	.667
Charlotte	6	5	.545
Atlanta	7	8	.538
Memphis	7	8	.538
Indiana	3	8	.273
Toronto	3	8	.273

WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Houston	12	1	.923
Utah	8	3	.727
Minnesota	5	7	.417
Denver	4	8	.308
Dallas	3	9	.250
San Antonio	2	10	.167
Vancouver	2	11	.154
Pacific Division	15	5	.750
Seattle	12	3	.800
L.A. Lakers	8	5	.615
Portland	8	5	.615
L.A. Clippers	6	7	.462
Sacramento	4	9	.308
Golden State	3	9	.250
Phoenix	0	12	.000

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Bevan the unlikely hero for Australia

BRISBANE (Reuters) - Makkshift spinner Michael Bevan proved an unlikely hero yesterday as Australia defeated West Indies by 123 runs in the first Test.

Bevan claimed three crucial wickets to outshine Shane Warne as Mark Taylor's side relentlessly broke down their opponents' resistance to dismiss West Indies for 296 on the fifth and final day at the Gabba.

The result was a bitter disappointment for West Indies opener Sherwin Campbell, who defied an accurate Australian attack for almost seven hours on his way to a defiant 113.

Bevan, who struggled in both innings in his primary role as a middle order batsman, removed Campbell, number four Carl Hooper (23) and pace bowler Ian Bishop (24) with his left-arm wrist spin at key moments to finish with three for 46 from 14 overs.

Australia, who beat West Indies' 2-1 in their series in the Caribbean early last year, set a daunting victory target of 420 after opting not to enforce the follow-on on Sunday.

West Indies' hopes of survival diminished dramatically before lunch when Brian Lara was dismissed for 44.

Lara edged a sharp catch to Mark Waugh at second slip after driving rashly at a wide delivery from pace bowler Paul Reiffel.

West Indies eventually succumbed only 53 minutes before the scheduled close after Campbell became the ninth wicket to fall, trapped leg before wicket.

NEL SCOREBOARD

MONDAY'S NFL RESULT: Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 2

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Florida	14	3	.824
Washington	12	8	.600
Philadelphia	12	10	.545
New Jersey	11	8	.577
N.Y. Giants	7	13	.346
Tampa Bay	7	11	.386
N.Y. Islanders	4	8	.333

WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Dallas	14	7	.667
Detroit	13	6	.688
Chicago	11	10	.524
St. Louis	12	11	.520
Toronto	9	13	.409
Phoenix	8	11	.421

Central Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
Hartford	10	6	.625
Montreal	10	11	.476
Buffalo	10	10	.500
Boston	7	8	.467
Ozawa	8	8	.500
Pittsburgh	7	13	.346

Pacific Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
Colorado	15	5	.750
Vancouver	12	8	.600
Edmonton	11	11	.500
Los Angeles	9	10	.476
Calgary	8	12	.400
San Jose	7	12	.364
Anshelm	7	13	.346

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bulls' Longley injured, Nuggets' coach quits
Chicago Bulls starting center Luc Longley suffered a separated left shoulder in a swimming accident and will be lost to the team for a minimum of eight weeks.

In other news last night, Bernie Bickerstaff quit as coach of the Denver Nuggets and was replaced by assistant Dick Motta. AP

Cooper saves Forest in final seconds
Colin Cooper salvaged a precious point for Nottingham Forest with a last-gasp equalizer and a 2-2 draw against fellow Premier League strugglers Blackburn on Monday night.

Cooper bundled the ball home from close range at the second attempt after Kevin Campbell had mis-kicked from Chris Allen's cross.

Smart Pearce scored for Forest. Kevin Gallacher and Jason Wilcox had goals for Blackburn. Reuters

Baseball owners ratify labor deal
Baseball owners, ending a four-year fight with their players, ratified a new collective bargaining agreement yesterday, ushering in a new era that includes interleague play and revenue sharing.

Approval came in a 26-4 vote, three more than the three-quarters majority needed for ratification. The same proposal was voted down 18-12 three weeks ago, and this latest vote represents a shift of 14 votes.

Final approval from players could come next week, when the union's executive board meets at Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico. AP

Attorney: Police trying to prevent retrial in Danny Katz case

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE are doing everything possible to prevent a retrial on the murder of Danny Katz, attorney Avigdor Feldman, who represents the five men now serving life sentences for the 1982 murder, charged yesterday.

Feldman said the police may be motivated by a desire to cover up mistakes made in the original investigation. Feldman also represents one of the convicted men's brother, who was detained Monday for allegedly fabricating evidence to secure their release.

Police said the brother, Hassan Atad-Ganayim, and a second suspect who also was detained on Monday, attorney Amin Badarna, presented investigators with a false statement from a convict who claimed that he and several other men had killed Katz, and not those now being held.

"We have been fighting for their release and will continue to fight for their release," Feldman said. He said that he has spoken with the convict and rejects police allegations that the man was coerced into taking credit for the crime.

Katz, a young boy, was found

raped and murdered in 1982 in a wadi near the Galilee village of Sakmin. Five Arabs from the area were convicted, largely on the basis of confessions they maintain to this day were signed under pressure from police.

A senior police source involved in the renewed investigation strongly rejected Feldman's accusations. The source said investigators took the statement presented to them just last month very seriously, but that it simply proved to be false.

"There is no question that the statement is false. That isn't to say that other evidence might not be found that will justify a retrial," the source said. "There are still several points that we are looking into."

Asked what motivated the convicted man who gave the statement, the source replied, "Let's just say pressure."

Last night a magistrate's court judge on Rehovot remanded Ganayim until noon today and left police with the option to ask for an extension. Police will also likely ask for Badarna to continue to be held.



Outgoing president of the Military Court of Appeals Maj-Gen. Ben-Zion Farhi speaks at a press conference yesterday marking his retirement from the IDF after 31 years' service. (IDF Spokesman)

Outgoing top IDF judge: Neither parents nor officers influence army courts

THE IDF's top judge defended the military justice system yesterday, saying it was an independent body not influenced by either bereaved parents of soldiers killed in training accidents who want senior officers tried and punished, or the IDF brass who oppose this.

"There is criticism from both sides and perhaps this is a sign that the military justice system is making its considerations in the best professional way," said.

He also dismissed charges that the army was quick to court-martial senior officers involved in training accidents. He said each case was carefully scrutinized and charges were filed only after military prosecutors were convinced that a reasonable officer would have behaved differently.

"The military prosecutors have authority to make decisions without any connection with the military system or commanders," Farhi said. Farhi said that cases dealing with training acci-

aries involving fatalities received top priority, and assured that the military investigation also helped derive lessons from the mishaps. "The main desire of the army is to learn from the mistakes in order to prevent them in the future," Farhi said.

"We also have to have the courage to close a file when there is no evidence, even if someone doesn't like it," Farhi said.

Farhi said the bulk of court-martials dealt with soldiers avoiding military duty, but added that there was a dramatic increase in the number of them being tried for drug use. In the first 10 months of 1996, 415 cases have come to court, compared to only 361 in all of 1995. In 1994, the number was even less. "To my regret, the trend today is to an increase in drug use," Farhi said.

Unlike the police who focus on dealers, army courts are out to prosecute anyone caught using

drugs, even for the first time.

"Even refusing to submit to a drug test is a crime," Farhi said. "I hope the fact that they are brought to trial and the harsh punishment they receive halts this phenomena," said Farhi.

"We want to nip it in the bud," he said, adding that the courts were canceling the military driver's licenses of drug offenders.

There was also a 50 percent rise in the number of violent offenses, with 61 cases so far this year compared to 42 last year.

Sixty percent of the work is spent dealing with soldiers absent without leave, he said.

Last week it was announced that after a decade in his post and 31 years in the IDF, Farhi was to be replaced by Brig-Gen. Ilan Schiff, who as chief military prosecutor came under fire for not trying senior officers for the Tze'elim B training accident.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers.

AROUND THE WORLD

Low, High, Wind, Clouds

Amsterdam	01	34	08	05	cloudy
Berlin	01	30	08	05	snow
Buenos Aires	-15	58	28	79	clear
Chicago	08	18	08	20	clear
Copenhagen	02	38	08	37	cloudy
Dublin	02	38	08	37	cloudy
Geneva	04	38	08	36	cloudy
Helsinki	02	38	08	37	rain
Hong Kong	28	72	28	79	clear
London	12	52	18	59	cloudy
Los Angeles	05	41	18	59	cloudy
Madrid	08	48	18	57	clear
Moscow	09	48	18	57	clear
New York	10	48	18	57	clear
Osaka	10	48	18	57	cloudy
Paris	08	48	18	57	cloudy
Seoul	08	48	18	57	cloudy
Tokyo	08	48	18	57	cloudy
Zurich	02	38	08	37	rain

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharon plans to resettle 50,000 Negev Beduin
Israel plans to move 50,000 Beduin from their tent encampments in the southern Negev and resettle them in five or six new towns, a spokesman for Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

The resettlement could take 10 to 15 years, said spokesman Ra'anan Gissin, adding that many Beduin had settled illegally on state land. No one would be forced to move, he said.

Sharon has said he wanted to move more Jews to the Negev and the northern Galilee region, two areas with large Arab populations. More than 200,000 Beduin currently live in these areas. (AP)

Court: Women's sports must get equal funding

A national committee should be appointed to establish and enforce guidelines ensuring that male and female sports groups get equal financial support from local councils, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The ruling was in response to a petition the Israel Women's Network and the Elitzur Holon basketball team filed. It is an important step toward rectifying the unequal funding male and female sports teams get, said attorney Rivka Meller-Olshtitzky, who represented the IWN. Jerusalem Post Staff

American Jewish activists petition Interior Ministry against banned entry of two US Jews

SOME 350 American Jewish activists from across the country submitted a petition to the Interior Ministry yesterday against the min-

istry's policy of forbidding American Jews suspected of links with Kach to visit the country.

The petition was submitted following a petition to the High Court of Justice last week by two American Jews banned under this policy: Shelly Benveniste, 49, of Miami, and Hillel Blaustein, 41, of Philadelphia.

Benveniste, who writes and edits for The Jewish Press in Miami, is a long-time pro-Israel activist active in her local Jewish community. She has often come here in the past, both to visit family and friends and for work. She is an outspoken critic of the Oslo Accords.

Blaustein, a CPA, is also both a long-time pro-Israel activist and well known in his local Jewish community. He also has family here, and

represents several American software companies that do business here, requiring frequent visits.

"The Law of Return has always been a sacred trust between the government of Israel and the generation that has followed the Holocaust," the public petition to the ministry said.

"To tamper with this hallowed obligation violates a fundamental commitment. We the undersigned demand that this horrendous policy of barring Jews from Israel based on their political ideas, or any other reason, be rescinded immediately. It is an extremely dangerous precedent, and can have grave and serious consequences to all of the Jewish people."

The petition to the court, meanwhile, argued that the ministry's decision was unreasonable on several fronts.

Freij hospitalized for kidney malfunction

BETHLEHEM Mayor Elias Freij was in stable condition yesterday after suffering from kidney malfunction.

Freij was admitted last Thursday to the intensive care unit at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital and was expected to be released in several days, said spokesman Yossi Shoval.

Freij has been mayor of Bethlehem for 24 years and also serves as the Palestinian Authority minister of tourism. (AP)

Knesset panel to discuss immigrant athletes who falsely claimed to be Jewish

LIAT COLLINS

INTERIOR Minister Eli Suissa is threatening to boycott today's meeting of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, scheduled to discuss the case of weightlifter Vacislav Ivanovsky, and swimmer Valery Stelmachenko.

The ministry has issued a deportation order against Ivanovsky and is expected to issue one against Stelmachenko soon for entering the country and obtaining citizenship under false pretenses.

Ivanovsky represented Israel at the Atlanta Olympics, where he was embarrassingly unsuccessful. On his return, the press probed his past and found that his marriage to a Jew was fictitious and that certain documents had been forged. He is not Jewish.

Suissa wrote to committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), accusing her of misusing the committee.

"At a time when the ministry is doing everything possible to limit the phenomenon of illegal entries to Israel, you are supporting someone who acted against the law and fraudulently gained immigrant status," he wrote.

Suissa said the ministry had acted above and beyond the call of duty when it delayed carrying out the deportation order because of Ivanovsky's written declaration that he would leave the country himself by November 29.

Blumenthal said the minister is obliged to appear before the Knesset committee and that the meeting is intended "to hear both sides of the story."

Edelstein: I'll resign if budget is not amended

Jerusalem Post Staff and Him

IMMIGRATION and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday that he will vote against the budget unless the changes he demands are made, and would resign if the sections addressing public housing, the student authority and programs for immigrant scientists are not amended.

These changes must be written into the budget, he added, and a letter promising them from Finance Minister Dan Meridor will not suffice.

"I will not be a minister in this government if a solution is not found for the problems of elderly immigrants," Edelstein told a group of them on Monday after hearing their complaints.

Edelstein told the immigrants that an inter-ministerial committee he initiated which also includes the Housing and Finance ministries is considering ways of addressing the housing problems elderly immigrants face.

Yesterday, Edelstein announced that his ministry is launching a project, with the support of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, to bring Israeli emigrants back to the country in time for its 50th anniversary festivities.

"I have no idea how to do this and I hope that the staff [I formed to coordinate this project] will find the solutions," he said.

The Chief Rabbinate and his ministry also have reached an agreement which calls for a section of regular cemeteries to be set aside for burying non-Jews, he said. Furthermore, they agreed to increase the number of programs for people interested in converting.

He also said the ministry plans to alter the absorption process regarding employment. He proposed that immigrants enroll in retraining courses rather than spending three or four years attempting to work in their old professions and failing. He suggested that funds raised abroad be used for this purpose, instead of government money.

Tibi: Use evacuated settlements to house Palestinian refugees

AHMED Tibi, Yasser Arafat's adviser, has been quoted as discussing a plan whereby Jewish settlements evacuated under the permanent arrangements would not be torn down but would serve to house Palestinian refugees. Channel 1 quoted Tibi last night as saying every additional home in the settlements would ultimately serve the Palestinians. The plan was raised at a symposium in Jerusalem over the weekend. Liat Collins

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